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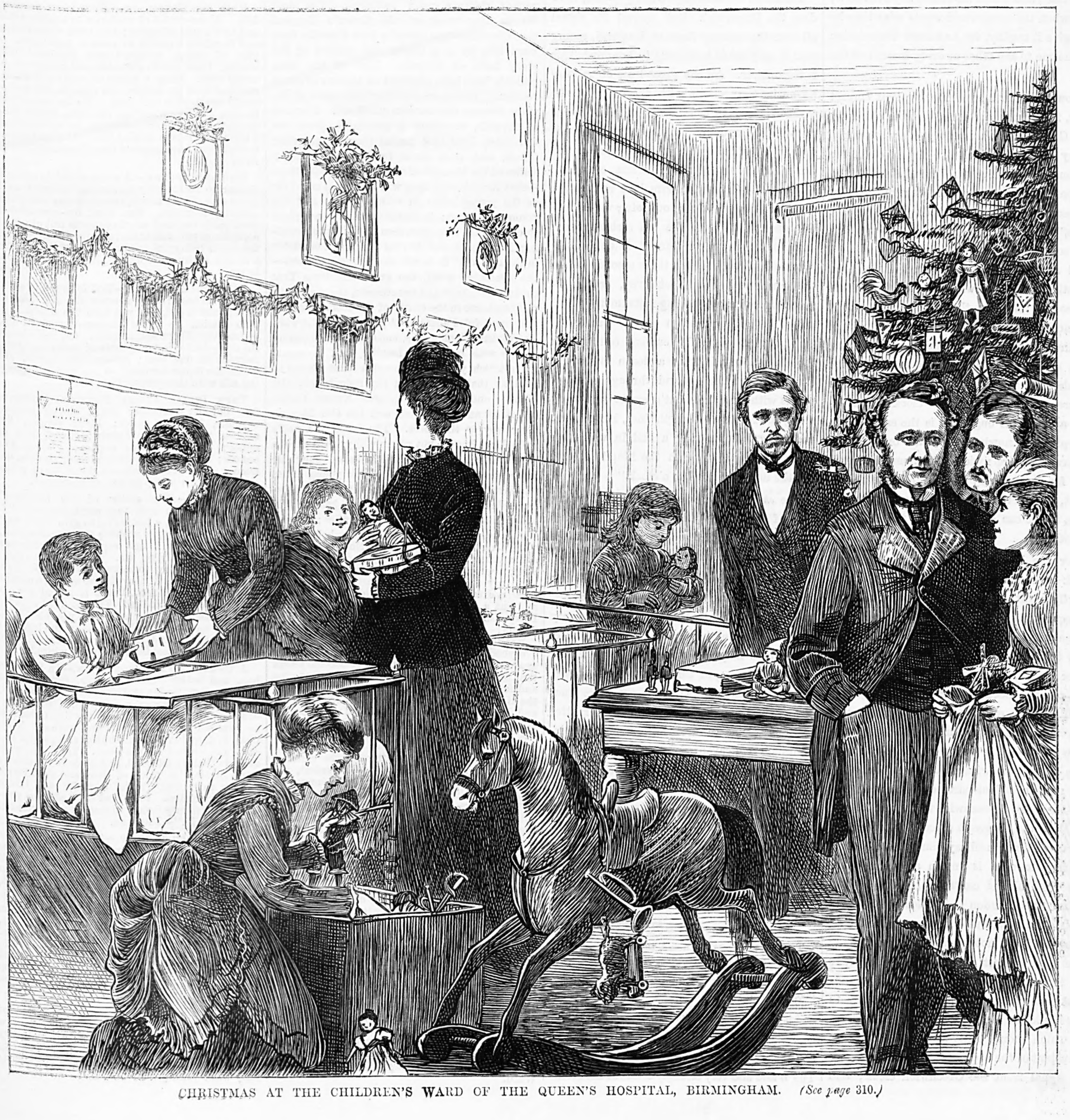


CHRISTMAS AT THE CHILDREN'S WARD OF THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM. *(See page 310.)*

TELEGRAPH TIME.

What we call "Railway Time" ought in justice to be called "Telegraph Time," since it is to the electric fluid and its conducting lines, rather than to the steam engine and its lines, that we must ascribe that accuracy in the setting of clocks and the keeping of time which now obtains in all towns of importance in the country. Railways were the first to want exact time everywhere; but the want was not supplied till the telegraph put towns and villages, far and wide apart, into communication with the establishment whose office it is to watch the heavenly bodies for mundane purposes, and to take the time from that only perpetual and never-erring dial—the starry sky.

Between the twinkling lights that we gaze upon to-night, and the station clock by which we shall set our watches to-morrow, the relation does not appear so close as it really is. The connection between sun-dials and clocks is well understood; but in astronomical practice the stars are used for timekeepers instead of the sun. "Star-time," or sidereal time as it is called, is susceptible of more exact determination than sun-time, and more frequent observation also; for there is but one sun and many stars, and each star will serve to show time as well as the sun. Moreover, the astronomer, for his own purposes, uses star-time, and keeps his clocks adjusted to it; and when the outer world wants solar time he can give it readily, for he knows the relation of the one to the other at every instant of the day.

Now, it is worth remembering that correct time, fresh from the stars, is sent out from the Greenwich Observatory every morning. Every night, on which the sky is clear, the astronomers observe numbers of stars for the purpose of keeping their clocks right. There are some special stars that they call "clock stars," which have had their positions in the sky so well determined, that they can be used as hour-marks, so to speak, on the celestial dial; and when one of these stars crosses the meridian the observer knows that his clock ought to indicate such an hour, such a minute, such a second, and such a fraction of a second—for he counts time to the hundredth part of this interval. The difference between what the clock does indicate and what it ought to, is the error of the timepiece. Knowing how much one clock is in error, the Greenwich Astronomer can tell how far wrong every clock is in his establishment, whether it indicate solar or sidereal time, for he can easily connect the one with the other.

For the benefit of the public, one solar clock at Greenwich is always kept almost exactly right, its error never being allowed to accumulate beyond a second, or some such insignificant interval. This clock is a marvel; it is impelled by electricity, and therefore never requires winding-up; it keeps some half-a-dozen clocks going in sympathy with it, all beating exactly as it beats, although they are disposed about the building, and some are even far away outside, connected only by electric wires; it drops balls and fires guns in various parts of the country, to give the natives Greenwich time; and it sends signals to the telegraph offices in London, to be flashed along railways and roads to give accuracy to what is known as *railway time*. This clock almost controls the time of the nation. The London Post-office has a series of dials in its various departments, and by a signal from it at noon each day, the hands of all of them are set to the hour of twelve, so that the mails may be sent off with astronomical punctuality. It would be possible to close the letter boxes by an electrical apparatus, which should bring down the shutters to the instant of the appointed time in obedience to a signal from the Greenwich clock; and there is no saying what feats of this kind may be accomplished when the Post-office has got the telegraph business well in hand. Another duty of the said clock is to deliver time in the tower of the Houses of Parliament for correction of the great clock, the first stroke of whose hour-bell gives London Greenwich time with scarcely a second's error.

Of course this horological factotum requires frequent correction, that it may never tell false tales to those who are on the alert to receive its messages. It is set right several times a day; but the most important correction is made before ten o'clock each morning, because it is at that hour precisely that the principal time signal is sent forth. As we have said, during the night stars for clock error are observed; the first thing in the morning the stars' places are worked up, and sundry small computations are made, to get rid of errors in the observing instruments. Thus the error of a *sidereal* or *star-time* clock is obtained, and from this the error of the galvanic clock—the factotum—is found. This error is corrected, and the clock is made to show Greenwich time exact to a small fraction of a second. At ten a.m. precisely it automatically "makes connections," and sends a flashing galvanic signal along the lines that connect the Observatory with the telegraphic offices in London.

But now comes the important question, How does the Greenwich clock spread its signal all over the railway lines of England, seeing that it only sends it directly to London? This is the answer. All the great lines of railway have wire connections with the offices of the "Electric and International Telegraph Company" in London. At these offices there is a very beautiful piece of apparatus called the "Chronopher," the function of which is to put the Greenwich wire into connection with each and all of the outgoing wires from the office just before the ten o'clock signal arrrives. This "switching" is done quite automatically. At about three seconds before the hour every wire is cut away, or disconnected from its "speaking instrument," and united to a continuation of the Greenwich wire, so that when the current comes from the Observatory it finds a dozen or twenty channels open for it, and through these it passes without a moment's arrest on its way along the railway telegraph lines, here, there, and everywhere, to ring a bell in well nigh every telegraph office in the kingdom, and tell the nation "it is ten o'clock."

The *chronopher*, immediately after the passage of the time-signal, restores the normal wire connections, and the business of the office goes on as usual till the morrow.

Greenwich gives forth a signal every hour; but one a day is sufficient for civil purposes, and we believe that at ten o'clock is the only one widely circulated by the telegraph office. The others may be used for special wants, such as the firing of time-guns, or the regulation of clocks in towns that are more than ordinarily desirous of exactness in the matter of time. Some interested gentlemen in Birmingham endeavoured, a year or two ago, to procure the establishment of a first-rate clock, to be regulated from Greenwich, and itself to control other clocks in the town, upon a principle well known to electricians, whereby one good clock can maintain in accuracy a number of inferior ones. Let us hope that these good endeavours may be fruitful yet.

The Byron Scandal.—A telegram from New York says advance sheets have appeared of Mrs. Stowe's volume entitled *Lady Byron Vindicated*. The Press almost unanimously condemn the book in severe terms. The *New York Times* declares that she evades dates and proves nothing, and it regrets that she should persist in recording herself as the authority for a revolting slander. The *Herald* says that her arguments are weak, and that her motives are to make money or to gain notoriety by pandering to depraved tastes. The *World* also very strongly condems the book.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHILDREN.

To say that Christmas is pre-eminently the Children's Festival may appear to many a truism; for who does not know the anticipatory joy with which the little ones hail its coming? The season of universal mirth and joy, the glorious Festival which had its origin in the birth of the Christ-child is regarded by the young as their especial time of pleasure. In the family-circles of the rich and the middle classes what preparations are made to fittingly commemorate the Nativity! With what glee do Flo, and Gerty, and Nelly of the golden locks set about furnishing the Christmas tree with its load of toys and fairy-like blossoms! And on Christmas-eve, when the magic tree is lit up with many-coloured tapers, and the drawing for the prizes begins as the Waits are playing and the carollers are singing outside, how the merry child-laughter rings through the house, infecting everyone with its jollity!

But Christmas with the children of the poor! Ah, dear reader, that is a very different affair. There is no Christmas-tree for them. Happy enough are they if roast beef and plum pudding be found on the table. They would go wild with joy at the sight of a fir-tree laden with glittering ornaments, which weigh its branches to the ground. Remembering, then, the distinctive mode of celebrating Christmas by the children of the Rich and the children of the Poor, you may easily imagine the rapturous state of delight into which the little occupants of the Children's Ward at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, were thrown on Christmas-eve when a giant tree spread its huge head amongst them, studded with all manner of beautiful articles. The Children's Ward! The very name is suggestive of tender thoughts, youthful aspirations, and patient abidings under suffering. You shall see in that ward at the Queen's Hospital this Christmas-tide many a Tiny Tim-like face, worn thin by long illness, and pinched by the sharp teeth of Poverty. Most of the little patients have been admitted on account of street accidents; others are suffering from some of the many diseases that environ childhood. They are all invalids, but there is something about the Christmas Tree that makes them forget their illness, and their faces brighten with sunny smiles at the thought of what is in store for them—that for this once they will be as well cared for as the young ladies in velvet jackets and the young gentlemen in knickerbockers and plaid stockings that they have seen erewhile promenading New-street and buying holly and mistletoe in the market. It is all like a dream to them—the decorated ward, the great Christmas Tree covered with toys and sweetmeats, the mammoth rocking-horse in the centre of the room, aye, and the beautiful Fairies that glide about the ward distributing Noah's arks, and dolls, and gleaming swords with brave red handles, and trumpets upon which you could sound a blast almost as loud as that with which the redoubtable Mr. Grinder and his "lot" greeted Messrs. Codlin and Short and Little Nell and the Old Man on their way to the races. The horse is a noble animal, we know; but where will you see such a gallant steed as this, which looks as though he intended to gallop over one of the young ladies who is sorting the toys? Look at the wondrously-painted animals on that middle cot—jackals, wild boars, and other zoological curiosities; observe the manner in which these four Household Fairies glide about the ward, leaving a Noah's ark at one cot, a box of sweets at another, a doll at a third, a regiment of soldiers, in gloriously-red jackets and very tall busbies, at a fourth cot! It must be all a dream—it is not the Children's Ward at all, but a bit of Fairyland, with four charming Fairy Godmothers looking after the smaller people!

But the astonishing reality of everything and everybody causes the little ones to rub their eyes again and again, and to gradually become aware that although they are surrounded by fairy forms and fairy gifts they are in their own cozy ward at the Hospital, with kind friends by their bedside, and kind words greeting them on all sides. If you look at the picture on the front page you will see, in the background, to which he has modestly retreated, the head of the gentleman who was instrumental in procuring for the children this Christmas treat. Mr. H. C. Burdett, the indefatigable secretary to the Hospital, appealed to several ladies on behalf of the little patients, and you have seen what sort of a response the ladies made. The gifts flowed in with such profusion that a bazaar was held in the Board-room of the Hospital, the proceeds of which will be applied towards a fund for providing pictures for the walls of the wards. Pleasing pictures and works of art have gladdened the weary eyes of many a sufferer, and often relieved, in no small degree, the tedious monotony of the long confinement to bed which the treatment of so many of the hospital cases demands. Such an end is deserving in the highest degree of the support of the charitable. The gentlemen who constitute the medical staff of the Hospital lent their willing assistance in arranging the Christmas festivities; and it is from the pencil of one of these, Dr. Sawyer, that our picture is engraved. Nor were the Hospital attendants behindhand in helping on the Christmas treat, which, held in 1869 for the second time, has been a very great success. We are asked to say that presents of pictures, of any description, will be thankfully received by the Secretary for the Children's Ward.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

To Make Peppermint Drops.—Take one pound of refined sugar, beat it fine and sift it through a lawn sieve, then mix it with the white of two eggs, beat it to a thick froth, then add sixty drops of the oil of peppermint, and beat them all well together, then with a tea-spoon drop it upon a fine cap-paper, the size of half a nutmeg, and put them upon the hearth to dry; the next day take them off and they are fit for use.

Curried Eggs.—Slice two onions and fry them in butter, add a table-spoonful of curry powder; let them stew in a pint of good broth till quite tender; mix a cup of cream, and thicken with arrowroot, or rice flour. Simmer a few minutes, then add six or eight hard-boiled eggs cut in slices; heat them thoroughly, but do not let them boil.

To Boil Potatoes.—The best cooks spoil potatoes sometimes, the worst nearly always. Here is a good receipt for cooking them, and making the best of them. Let them lie in cold water six hours at least before boiling (twelve hours for very old is not too long). Then put them into boiling water, a little salted, and the water should be kept at a moderate boil till they are done, which should be tested with a fork; then pour off the water and let them stand in the pot till dry. Great care should be taken not to let them boil a moment after they are done, as it will render them watery. An excellent plan to make old potatoes mealy is to turn them into a cloth and rapidly shake them about, or take them one at a time in a cloth and slightly press them. The larger potatoes should be put into the pot before the smaller ones, that they may be equally done. It requires from forty to fifty minutes. New ones will take about half that time.

Economical Rice Pudding Without Eggs.—Two large table-spoonsful of rice to one quart of milk, one small cup of white sugar, one cup of raisins. Let it stand in a warm place three hours, and bake one hour. However paradoxical it may appear, the addition of one or two eggs spoils the pudding, rendering it firm and dry. Half a dozen eggs and half the rice previously boiled will make a delicious custard, with a few grains of rice at the bottom. You may call it a rice pudding if you please.

Rice and Cream, &c.—Here is an excellent dish. A tea-cupful of good rice to a pint of milk and half a pint of water; boil until quite tender. and turn into a mould to remain until cold. A pint of cream, whipped and flavoured with vanilla. Place rice in glass dish and pour whipped cream over. Make a syrup of sugar and water; peel and stew six apples, and place in the syrup; colour syrup with cochineal. To be eaten with the rice and cream. Place rice, &c., in one dish, and syrup and apples in another, but eat together. I strongly advise a trial of this. It is an original receipt from an admirer of the *Illustrated Midland News*—L. H.

Economy of Tea.—A given quantity of tea is similar to malt—only imparting strength to a given quantity of water, therefore any additional quantity is waste. Two small tea-spoonsful of good black tea, and one three parts full of green, are sufficient to make three tea-cups-full agreeable, the water being put in in a boiling state at once; a second addition of water gives a vapid flavour to tea.

Black Silk Reviver.—Boil logwood in water for half an hour; then simmer the silk half an hour; take it out, and put into the dye a little blue vitriol, or green copperas; cool it, and simmer the silk for half an hour. Or, boil a handful of fig-leaves in two quarts of water until it is reduced to one pint; squeeze the leaves, and bottle the liquor for use. When wanted, sponge the silk with this preparation.

True Indian Curry Powder.—Turmeric, four ounces; coriander seeds, eleven ounces; cayenne, half an ounce; black pepper, five ounces: pimento, two ounces; cloves, half an ounce; cinamon, three ounces; ginger, two ounces; cummin seed, three ounces; shalots, one onnce. All these ingredients should be of a fine quality, and recently ground or powdered.

Poultry.—The editor of the *Gardener's Chronicle* says, in reply to a correspondent, "It is, in our opinion, a bad thing to give fowls egg-shells. They supply nothing that is not equally furnished by lime, and especially bricklayers' rubbish, old ceilings, &c. Never do anything that has a tendency to make them eat eggs. They are apt scholars. If they find worms in a natural way they are good food, but it is a bad plan to give them by the handful. The colour of a golden Poland cock is not very essential, provided it be uniform, and the spangling regular, the legs of a good clear blue, and the wing well laced. The top-knot should not have too much white."

A Cheap and Delicious Dish.—In Birmingham and many Midland towns, especially on Fridays, pigs' brains are to be bought remarkably cheap. They make an excellent dish for supper or as a side dish at dinner. Let the thin outer skin be removed and the brains well washed. Then place in dripping tin, with butter and pepper and salt, and cooked in the oven. They are more delicate than sweetbread, and it only requires a large increase in price of them and their introduction to "swell" tables to make pigs' brains fully appreciated. I am glad to be able to publish this "dainty dish" through the columns of the "I. M. N."—Epicure.

Horseradish Powder.—The time to make this is during November and December: slice the radish the thickness of a shilling, and lay it to dry very gradually in a Dutch oven (a strong heat soon evaporates its flavour); when dry enough, pound it and bottle it.

Oyster Ketchup.—Take fine fresh Milton oysters; wash them in their own liquor, strain it, pound them in a marble mortar; to a pint of oysters add a pint of sherry; boil them up, and add an ounce of salt, two drachms of pounded mace, and one of cayenne; let it just boil up again, skim it, and rub it through a sieve; and when cold, bottle it, cork well, and seal it down.

To Make a Syrup.—Dissolve one pound of sugar in about a gill of water, boil for a few minutes, skimming it till quite clear. To every two pounds of sugar add the white of one egg well beaten. Boil very quickly, and skim carefully while boiling.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Mr. Disraeli has been suffering from gout.

The town of Santa Maura has been totally destroyed by an earthquake.

Mr. Dease has been returned unopposed for the Queen's County.

On Thursday three miners were killed and one injured by the falling of some ground at Drakewalls Mine, Calstock. Cornwail.

The intelligence brought by the West India mail is not very important. The Nicaraguan army was still at Leon, engaged in the pacification of the western departments. In Costa Rica the fears of revolution seemed to have ceased, and the Government had disarmed the militia.

Another death has resulted from the effects of the disaster at the Bristol Theatre on Boxing Night. William Gamblin, aged 13, of Cathay, Bristol, died on Monday. The report that the other daughter of Mr. Jones, the Weston carrier was dead, is incorrect.

Longevity of Women.—The United States' Secretary of Interior mentions in the report he has made on the last financial year that the last surving American soldier of the revolutionary war died in the year, but that 888 widows of such soldiers still survive and receive pensions.

The Œcumenical Council.—A despatch from Rome, dated Monday, says at that day's sitting of the Œcumenical Council the death of four Fathers was officially announced. Cardinal de Angilis was nominated Cardinal President of the Commission on questions of dogma, and Cardinal Catterini President of the Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline. Four Fathers subsequently spoke, and the discussion was continued on Tuesday.

The New Year's Reception at the Tuilleries.—On New Year's Day the Papal Nuncio, in the name of the Diplomatic Body, congratulated the Emperor, at the reception held at the Tuilleries, and expressed wishes for the prosperity of France. His Majesty, in reply, thanked the Nuncio, and said that the presence of the Diplomatic Body on the occasion was a proof of the good relations which the French Government maintained with all foreign Powers. The Emperor afterwards addressed personally a few words of congratulation to each of the Ambassadors present.

The New Bankruptcy Act.—Under the following provision in the new Act all clerks, including articled clerks, are not allowed to appear in cases. Section 70.—"Every attorney and solicitor of the superior courts shall be and may practice as a solicitor of and in the Court of Bankruptcy, and in matters before the Chief Judge or registrars in the London Court of Bankruptcy, in court or in chambers, may appear and be heard without being required to employ counsel. If any person not being such attorney or solicitor practises in the Court of Bankruptcy as attorney or solicitor he shall be deemed guilty of a contempt of the Court." There are as many as 319 rules and numerous forms to be used.

The State of Ireland.—There is little doubt that the two policemen who were fired at last week at Askeaton had rendered themselves obnoxious to the Fenians by their zeal and activity. A procession took place in the village some weeks ago, in celebration of O'Donovan Rossa's election, when windows were smashed, and cheers given for "the Irish Republic." The police summoned twenty-four persons for this, which produced a bad feeling towards them, resulting, it is thought, in this outrage. Another policeman was fired at on Friday at Shanagolden, in the same county (Limerick), and slightly wounded. The *Clare Journal* states upon authority that, within the last few days, threatening notices have been received by some of the landlords in a district of the county not many miles from Ennis.

The Marquis of Westminster's Will.—Probate of the will of the late Marquis of Westminster has been granted to his relict and his sons-in-law, the Earl of Macclesfield and Sir Michael Stewart, the executors. The trustees are the late Marquis's son-in-law, Lord Leigh, of Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire, and Lord Wenlock. The personalty was sworn under £800,000. Amongst the numerous bequests are the following:

To his private secretary, W. R. Glennie, he leaves £400 a year; to George Allen, his election agent, £200 a year; John R. Lyons, £200 a year; Samuel Ullett, £120 a year; George Hughes, his Halkyn agent, £100 a year; Thomas Fleming, £100 a year; John Richmond, his Dorsetshire agent, £80 a year; G. T. West, late porter at the Grosvenor Estate Office, London, £60 a year; and to Eleanor, daughter of his late agent, W. Batten, of Shaftesbury, £40 a year; to Lord Ebury, his Lordship's brother, £200,000 to Cecil T. Parker, £10,000.

The estates are divided between the two sons of the late Marquis. There are bequests to each of his lordship's daughters, one of whom is Lady Leigh. After his wife's decease, the residue of the remainder of the real and personal property, oes to his son, Lord Richard de Aquila Grosvenor.

The Sale of Laudanum by Druggists.—Mr. Taylor, the Bolton coroner, held an inquest on Monday on the body of a blacksmith, named William Whalley, who had, while in a state of excitement produced by indulgence in drink, taken six drachms of laudanum. The deceased went to the shop of Mr. Ainscow, chemist, on Friday, and asked for 4d. worth of laudanum. Mr. Ainscow sold it, cautioning the deceased that 10 or 12 drops was a large enough dose. When the deceased got home he drank the contents of the bottle, which was duly labelled "poison," and then went to sleep. He died the following morning. The druggist admitted that, though a registered druggist, he did not make an entry of the sale, and he sold the poison to the man without any witness being present. The coroner stated that the penalty which the druggist had incurred for not entering the sale in a book was £5 for the first and £10 for the second offence. He also quoted the 138th section of the Bolton Improvement Act, 1854, which renders any person liable to a penalty of £5 for selling any virulent poison to any person except in the presence of a witness, the name of the purchaser and the witness to be at the same time entered in a book kept for that purpose. The coroner, while telling the jury that they had no power to make the druggist in this case criminally responsible, said he hoped the public prosecutor would take the matter up.

The Yorkshire miners are agitating for the restoration of 7½ per cent wages.

A festival is being organised in Paris in honour of the approaching centenary of Beethoven.

The special services in St. Paul's cathedral began on Sunday evening.

Mr. Greville has been elected for Longford by a majority of 1,059 over his opponent, Mr. Martin.

From Paraguay we learn that Lopez has been routed in his last stronghold, and has fled to Bolivia.

Two convicts escaped from Dartmoor prison during a dense fog last Friday, but were captured four miles from the prison and brought back again.

A shocking disaster occurred at Limerick last week. The gale blew down a number of old houses in the Irish and English Towns, and five of the inmates were killed.

The Spanish Ministry has tendered its resignation in consequence of the reception of a decided negative from the King of Italy to the proposed election of the Duke of Genoa to fill the Spanish throne. The question is raised of investing the Regent with sovereign power.

The municipal authorities of numerous cities have appointed delegates to be present at the obsequies in honour of Mr. Peabody to be celebrated at Portland, U.S., upon the arrival of the *Monarch*.

The question of emigration, in connection with the large amount of surplus labour in this country, was discussed at Exeter-hall on Tuesday. The meeting was in favour of a national emigration policy, and of encouraging emigration to our colonies on a large scale.

Mr. John Madden, of Hilton Park, Clones, county Monaghan, has been removed from the offices of high sheriff and deputy lieutenant, and from the commission of the peace, for writing a letter to the Irish executive, which is described by the Chief Secretary as using language of studied insult to the Government of the Queen.

A large pile of warehouses known as the Blackfriar's Bonded Wharf caught fire on Friday night, and burnt with immense rapidity and fierceness, lighting up the Thames from Westminster to Southwark Bridge, and attracting crowds of people, many of whom were rowed past the warehouse. The damage was considerable.

Death of a Lady from Intemperance.—A shocking case has come before the coroner at Skipton. A Miss Firth, who had not been sober for many days, on Saturday evening went to an eating-house and persisted in calling for a pint of rum, with which she drank herself into a helpless state. She was laid on a mat in front of the fire, and was heard to breathe very heavily during the night. In the morning she was found quite dead, lying on the floor, with the empty rum bottle between her legs. The verdict was that she had died from congestion of the brain, caused by excessive drinking.

Murdered by Mistake.—The *Cologne Gazette* relates a horrid story as enacted at Schrimm, in the government of Posen. A country girl, had received her inheritance of 300 thalers. At Schrimm, she took refuge at the house of the village justice, whom she informed of the object of her journey. Ho advised her to go to bed with his wife. When all lay in a deep sleep, the covetous host went into the garden and dug a hole there. He then took a sharp knife, went up to the bed where the two were asleep, and with a steady hand cut the throat of the person lying furthest from the wall, took up his victim and buried her in the garden. When he came back he found the bed empty. He had murdered his own wife instead of the stranger. The wife lay close to the wall during the evening, but afterwards moved to the outer side of the bed. The girl had got out of bed after the murder, and hastened away with her money.

The Court.—On New Year's Eve the Queen gave presents to all the servants of the household at Osborne, for whom Christmas trees had been prepared in the steward's room and servants' hall. Her Majesty, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, proceeded to the rooms at six o'clock, where the servants were assembled, and personally distributed the gifts, assisted by the Princes and Princesses. On Sunday Her Majesty and the Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Louise, and Prince Leopold attended Divine Service at Whippingham Church. The Rev. George Prothero and the Rev. R. Duckworth officiated, and administered the Sacrament of the Holy Communion. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, with Prince Albert Victor and Prince George, and attended by the Hon. Mrs. Grey and Major Grey, left Holkham for Gunton on Saturday morning.

The Theft of Colonel Hickie's Child.—At the Berkshire Quarter Sessions, on Tuesday, Elizabeth Barry, 39, nurse, was indicted for abducting Amelia Maria Victoria Hickie, the daughter of Colonel Hickie, on the 8th of October, 1869. The prisoner, who is of rather prepossessing appearance, was dressed in black, and pleaded guilty to taking the child, but, denied that she did it to deprive Colonel Hickie of his child. Mr. Green, who prosecuted, said had it not been for the assistance of the Press the probability was that the child would not have been recovered. The evidence was for the most part a recapitulation of what has previously been published. In the course of a long, rambling defence, the prisoner said she regretted taking the child from the first; she treated the child well, and gave it wholesome food. She went to the priest on Saturday, and asked him to come to her on Sunday that she might tell him about the affair and give up the child. As he did not come, she sat down on Sunday and wrote to Mrs. Hickie that she could have her child on applying at 7, St. Jude's-place, Liverpool. She was going to post this letter when taken into custody by the detective. She was extremely sorry for the offence, and would willingly undo it if she could. At the conlusion of her statement she burst into tears. She was sentenced to fifteen months' hard labour, and was removed crying.

Sir Rutherford Alcock, our envoy at Hong-Kong, has been insulted by the Governor of Nankin, who has apologised for his conduct.

The list of bankrupts in Tuesday's *London Gazette* was the longest that has been published for a long time.

M. Lefébure-Wély, a French organist of some repute, fell dead a few days since at the foot of his organ, in the church of St. Sulpice, Paris.

Dismissal of Baron Haussmann.—M. Haussmann, who refuses to resign, is to be superseded by the Prefect of Lyons. The Emperor was desirous of retaining him, but the Cabinet wishing his immediate removal, his Majesty yielded.

The death is announced of Admiral Sir Thomas Hastings, K.C.B., at the age of 80. He was born in 1790, and was the son of the Rev. James Hastings, M.A., Rector of Martley, near Worcester, a living which has long been, as it is now, held by a member of the Hastings family.

The Bishop of Exeter has appointed the Rev. Ernest G. Sandford, M.A., of Christ Church, late curate of Alvechurch, Worcestershire, to be his resident domestic chaplain. Mr. Sandford is a son of the Archdeacon of Coventry.

A Gamekeeper Murdered. — An underkeeper named Hight, in the employ of the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, has been murdered near Mildenhall. He was seen to enter a plantation on Friday, and on Sunday his dead body was discovered concealed in some furze. There were four wounds on his head, inflicted by an instrument which smashed his skull. Two poachers are in custody and will be charged with the crime.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells.—Lord Arthur Hervey, D.D., the new Bishop of Bath and Wells, was formally enthroned on Wednesday morning in Wells Cathedral, the Dean of Wells, the Archdeacons of Bath, Taunton, and Wells, Canon Beard, and several of the prebendaries taking part in the service.

The members of the senate of the University of London have just now done a wise thing, and in a very liberal way. The salary of the Registrar, Dr. Carpenter, who has distinguished himself by his important researches in deep-sea soundings, is advanced to £1,000 per annum, and an Assistant-Registrar is about to be appointed, with a salary of £500 per annum.

Conspiring to Kill the Czar.—A vast conspiracy has been discovered at Odessa, having for its object the life of the Czar. The pupils of the University Papich and Yeremichew are principally inculcated. The story is that the conspirators had resolved to tear up the rails of the line during the journey of the Emperor from Odessa to St. Petersburg. It is added, that the conspirators arrested belong, without exception, to the Russian nationality. A conspiracy has also been discovered at St. Petersburg.

Death of a Thief.—A singular criminal case was brought to a conclusion at the Rochester quarter sessions on Monday, when James Hall was tried far stealing two watches and other articles from a beerhouse in Strood. Hall's real offence was being, with a third man—not captured—in the company of Thomas Derrick, who stole the articles one afternoon from a bedroom. They were found upon him. When Derrick had put the property in his pockets he fell down, and when persons, attracted by the noise, entered the room the burglar was in the agonies of death. He was dead, apparently from apaplexy, before a doctor could be obtained. Beautifully finished housebreaking tools were were found on him. Hall and the third man remained in the beerhouse parlour while Derrick crept upetairs. Hall was found guilty, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Pantomimes.—The Birmingham Pantomimes are unusually attractive this year. The elephant at the Royal is such a success that Mr. Simpson is compelled to advertise his inability to decide bets whether the animal is really alive or not! We shall illustrate the famous Procession Scene in "Blue Beard" next week. Morning performances of the pantomines are given every Thursday.

Day's Concert Hall. — For the "grand annual" at this well-conducted establishment Mr. Edwin Day and Mr. Watson have produced one of the most charming transformation scenes conceivable. It is called "The King of the Peacocks," and is highly creditable to the artists, who have painted a stage-picture of uncommon merit. We hope to reproduce the scene next week.

The Slave Troupe at Birmingham.—The company of minstrels now performing at Curzon Hall are drawing large houses. Their entertainment is a capital one—humourous without verging on the vulgar, and musically above the average. There is a change in each week's programme.

A large meeting of representative workingmen, to discuss the subject of national education, was held on Wednesday night at the Grand Jury Room of the Public Office, Birmingham, Mr. Dixon, M.P., presiding. The proposals of the League, as regards forming ward branches, were agreed with.

Suicide of an Artist.—Mary Ewbank, who lived with her brother and sister in Park Street, Birmingham, attempted self-destruction on Christmas night by taking some of the colour used in her profession. She has since died, and on Wednesday an inquest was held by Dr. Birt Davies, who, after hearing the evidence of the sister of deceased, and that of Dr. Sawyer, resident physician at the Queen's Hospital, who administered an emetic to her, adjourned the inquiry for a fortnight. Deceased and her brother and sister were well known as painters of small landscapes. They seem to have been improvident. Considerable sums were at times earned by the two sisters and the brother, but it was all spent in drink, till the family were reduced almost to starvation. The building they inhabited was a wretched back cottage, said to be almost destitute of furniture, there being neither table nor chair on the premises, orange-boxes doing duty for the latter, and a tub serving for a table.

POLICE AND LAW COURTS.

A CLERGYMAN FINED.

On Monday, the Rev. Dr. Molesworth, Vicar of Rochdale, was fined 2s. 6d. and costs by the magistrates, for having assaulted Hamlet Nicholson, in St. Chad's Church, on Sunday, the 26th of December. The evidence was very conflicting, but the magistrates, after twenty minutes' deliberation, decided in favour of the complainant.

SUPPOSED CHILD MURDER.

Elizabeth Cook, until recently in the service of Mr. Barrows, Himley, has been committed to Stafford Assizes on a charge of murdering her newly-born male infant. A policeman went to prisoner's mother's house at Ocker Hill, and found in a sack, which prisoner had thrown behind a door, the body of a child, wrapped in muslin. She told another policeman she did not expect to be confined so soon; and she denied concealing the birth of the child.

SINGULAR ROBBERY AT A PUBLIC HOUSE.

Sarah Clarke, a servant, has been committed for trial by the Bilston Bench under the following circumstances. On the 23rd ult., Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, beerhouse keepers and grocers, of Bradley, found that a window downstairs was open, and that £16 in gold and silver and a £5 note were missing. The prisoner was confused when the robbery was mentioned to her; and while the prosecutor was with a policeman the £5 note was mysteriously replaced on a shelf in the bar. The girl, against whom there was no further evidence, denies all knowledge of the robbery.

THE BLACK COUNTRY.

A serious charge has been made against our Black Country friends. A "wild-looking fellow," named Hagan, being charged at Dudley police-court with destroying his clothes at the workhouse, said his trousers were torn whilst he was in a public house in the neighbourhood. The Black Country people were always taking liberties with somebody or other, and they took liberties with him by ripping his trousers. Turning his face towards the Magistrate, prisoner said, "You know how these Black Country people will take liberties." It was proved that his clothes were tolerably good for a tramp, and he was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour.

THE OUTRAGE AT EWELL.

This case, reported last week, came before Mr. Carter, the coroner, on Tuesday, when an inquest was held on the body of George Spooner, thirty-eight years of age, who occupied the house where the explosion occurred on the 22nd ult. It will be remembered that on the morning of the explosion Spooner, alarmed at the cries of Lizzie Richardson, jumped out of bed and pursued the man Huggett, and, after struggling with him, pushed him into the kitchen, and it was while there that Huggett threw into the fire the bag of gunpowder which blew up the house. Mr. Spooner died of his injuries on Friday last. Mrs. Richardson and Edward Grantham were shortly examined, and Dr. Barnes deposed to the nature of the injuries sustained by the deceased. A verdict of wilful murder against Hugget was returned.

MR. FINLEN AND HIS DISTINGUISHED REFUGEE!

A fortnight ago we reported the case of Moritz Peyzer, who was charged with threatening violence to the Rev. S. Landeshut, secretary to a Jewish Board of Guardians at the east end of London. From a statement made on Saturday at the Guildhall Police Court, it appeared that the prisoner was one of the "distinguished refugees" whom Mr. Finlen engaged to attend and speak at his meetings, and that the prisoner invariably concluded his address by appealing to the assembly for money. He had been examined by medical men, who had certified as to his sanity; but Sir W. Carden said that although the medical certificate said he was sane, his conduct and the papers found at his lodgings showed that he was insane. Here was one: "Moritz Peyzer, again! Mr. Peyzer again and again will give the Jackasses great pain. But to Jack tars pleasure without measure." Failing to find two sureties in £5 each and entering into his own recognizances to keep the peace for six months, the prisoner went to gaol.

FRIED FISH SHOPS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS.

At Marylebone Police Court a case of importance to proprietors of refreshment houses was brought before Mr. D'Eyncourt. James Aggers, keeper of a fried fish shop, was charged with keeping his shop open for the sale of refreshments after ten o'clock at night, not having a licence to do so. Inspector Lucas said that, owing to the number of drunken and disorderly people who assembled in these unlicensed shops, they had become a nuisance to the neighbourhood. These proceedings had therefore been taken with the view of bringing such places under the surveillance of the police. Sergeant Quin found about twenty-five persons standing in the defendant's shop, eating fish and potatoes fried *à la mode*, at a quarter to one on the morning of the 25th of December, and witness asked the proprietor if he had a licence. He said he had not, and did not require one, because there were no seats in the shop. Mr. D'Eyncourt told the defendant that the absence of seats did not relieve him from the obligation of taking out a licence, and that by endeavouring to save the small cost of a licence he had incurred a penalty of £20, which could only be mitigated to one-fourth of that amount. The defendant was therefore ordered to pay a fine of £5, or in default of payment, to be imprisoned for twenty-one days.

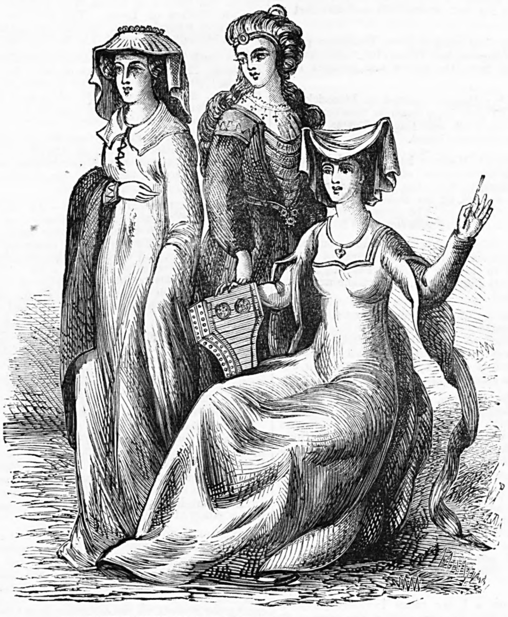
An elderly woman was run over and killed on Monday night at the corner of Bath Street and Snow Hill, Birmingham.

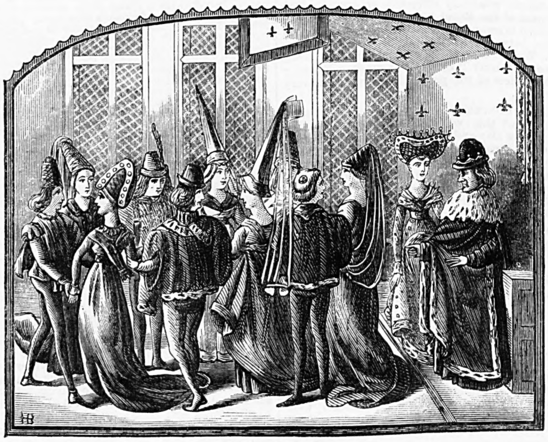
A Child Shot by a Boy.—Samuel Tonks, between 15 and 16 years old, thinking to frighten a little girl named Louisa Heath, at Brockmoor, on Saturday, put a cap on his brother's gun, which he did not know was loaded, and presented it at the child, who was two yards away. The charge entered the girl's head, and she died directly. Tonks (who works at Bewdley) is in custody.

Choosing a Chaplain at Clifton.—There was an amusing though not an instructive scene at the meeting of the Clifton Board of Guardians on Friday. A chaplain was to be elected at a salary of £100 a year. The two candidates were the Rev. J. Pilditch and the Rev. A. Lane. Mr. Pilditch was first called in, and the following conversation took place among the guardians:—Mr. Cousins: Are your views High or Low Church?—(Laughter.)—Mr. Pilditch: I belong to the Church of England.—The Rev. H. Richards: I will vouch for Mr. Pilditch, as I have been in the habit of hearing him preach. I am not of the new High Church, but of the old High Church, and, as far as I can understand, Mr. Pilditch is the same.—Mr. Cousins: I suppose you are moderate? (The question was not answered.) Mr. Lane was next called in.—Mr. Cousins: What are your views, High or Low Church?—Mr. Lane: Moderate.—(Laughter.) The Rev. F. Burges, who nominated Mr. Pilditch, thought his musical talents would be an advantage. Mr. Greenway: We don't want musical services here. Mr. Paget suggested that before electing anyone the Board should hear both preach.—(Laughter.) Mr. Cousins said they ought to have a trial sermon—(more laughter)—but could not promise to hear the chaplain after his election, as it would then be too late.—Mr. Lane, the moderate minister, was elected.

WOMANKIND IN WESTERN EUROPE.*

The history of woman from the earliest ages is a most interesting and instructive study. Mr. Wright, in a work just published by Groombridge and Sons, tells the story of womankind in Western Europe up to the seventeenth century, in 340 pages, that have all the attraction and fascination of a romance, despite here and there technicalities and historical references necessary to a work of such a character. Woman's position in the earlier ages was certainly not that given to her by nature, but one which arose out of the primitive forms of society. The earliest form of government was that called the Patriarchal. Each head of a family was entirely the ruler over all the other members. He acknowledged no other authority excepting Heaven. He possessed absolute powers over them, extending to life and death, with the only exception perhaps of his wife; for her family had, in disposing of her, reserved a certain right of interference for her protection. But the father sold his daughter in marriage, disposed of her entirely at his will, and woman was in every sense a vassal and a slave. In the Cimbric wars of Marius, a century before Christ, both Teutons and Gauls were accompanied to battle by their wives and families. In the great defeat of the Cimbri and Ambrones, by that general, in the neighbourhood of Aquæ Lextiæ, their women, who had been left with the chariots, threw themselves amongst the fugitives, and reproaching their husbands with their cowardice, attacked the victors, and saved the confederate Gauls and Teutons from destruction by their valour. In later periods women served in battle, although they were slaves to their husbands at home. Notwithstanding, writers of the period speak of them as virtuous and faithful women, and of the Celtic women as possessing great personal beauty. This is an interesting period of the history of woman, and the history is told lucidly and well. Here and there the text sparkles with an anecdote, and we are carried along through the ancient days of Briton to the Franks in Gaul, until we find ourselves studying the characteristics of Anglo-Saxon beauties. Strange to say, it is amongst the Anglo-Saxon MSS. that we first see women on horseback. Womankind in the feudal days is a specially interesting phase of this remarkable history. Our illustration below represents a dance at Court. The ladies of the feudal age were passionately fond of dancing. They danced in the chambers and in the gardens, and they even wandered into the fields to dance. The favourite dance was the *carole*, in which those who joined in it, danced in a ring and accompanied their movements with singing; and this dance was so universally used, that the common word for to dance was *caroler*. It is this dance which is represented in our engraving, a quaint little picture of the period. Our second, also a picture of the period, represents ladies in church in the middle ages. Pews were less in use than in modern times, except as belonging to favoured individuals, or to those who were able to buy them. But open seats were still less known, and the ladies, and some of the men also, when listening to the sermon of the preacher, squatted on the ground as they did in the fields. This manner of sitting, or squatting, in church is well represented in our cut, which is taken from a MS. in the British Museum, and ascribed to the reign of Henry IV., *i.e.* the earliest part of the fifteenth century. In those days it was literally open churches and free sittings. With the exception of having a little better accommodation, we might with advantage take example from the past in this respect. Our third illustration brings us to the transition from feudalism. It is a picture of English ladies of the end of the fifteenth century. We seek our fashions in France at the present day, and we no doubt did the same at the end of the fifteenth century. A reliable writer of the period has given a plate of dresses belonging to this past time, which is professedly taken from English sources, and of which three dresses are given in the illustration we have just mentioned. Though the costume of these ladies can hardly be said to be uniform, yet they exhibit a general similarity in character, which is evidently copied from the French; the same close-fitting bodies of the robe and the same wide sleeves. From this point we get into the Elizabethan age, one of extreme interest in relation to the female development of our own island. At this time came in the less severe morality of the Court of Scotland, which had been much more influenced by French feeling than that of England. Under Charles I. the character of English society became greatly sobered, up to the period when the prevailing spirit of Puritanism completed the gradual change which commenced in that reign. The women of this period were more simple in manner and in dress than in any previous period, displaying a strictness in their lives and manners which passed into a tone of rigidity. French society during this time had gone through none of these changes, and with the second Charles its fashionable traits and characteristics were legally imported into our island. The reign of Charles II. is celebrated in our annals for its licentiousness. During the seventeenth century the general character of woman remained as bad in France, whilst it was improving in England. The terrible revolution which closed the century in France effected great change in the social character of the period which followed, and exercised an influence even in England, and may be considered as an introduction to the social condition of our own time. In all these Mr. Wright truly says there is an abundance of materials for a very important history, and it is only scant justice to say that Mr. Wright has used these materials with the ability of an historian and the wisdom of a philosopher. The work is most profusely illustrated with wood engravings and coloured lithographic fac-similes of ancient pictures.

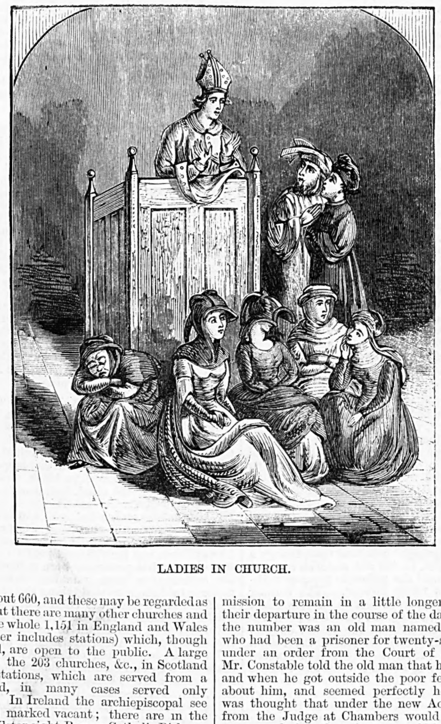

ENGLISH LADIES OF THE END OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.


A DANCE AT COURT.

Before and After Dinner.—There is a popular notion current that we mortals weigh as light, or even lighter, after dinner than before. Some friends of mine lately determined to test the point, having ready means of weighing at hand. Five or six of a party, ladies and gentlemen of various weights and ages, put themselves severally into the scales before and after the afternoon meal for several days together, and recorded their gravities accurately. They one and all weighed more after dinner than before, and the average increase was about two pounds and a quarter– just what we may assume was the weight of the food and drink they had taken. So the popular notion is a fallacy—whence did it arise?

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

From the *Catholic Directory* for 1870, issued *per missu superiorum*, we learn that the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the British dominions comprises nine archbishoprics, 70 bishoprics, and 31 vicariates, making a total of 110. The hierarchy in England and Wales comprises the Archbishop of Westminster, second archbishop and metropolitan, born in 1808, consecrated in 1865; and 12 suffragans, the Bishops of Menevia and Newport, of Birmingham, of Southwark, of Salford, of Shrewsbury, of Nottingham, of Liverpool, of Plymouth, of Clifton, of Northampton, of Beverley, and of Hexham and Newcastle. In Scotland there are three vicariates, or districts under the jurisdiction of bishops taking their titles from sees *in partibus infidelium*. The Roman Catholic Church in Great Britain has 19 bishops (including three retired); 1,708 clergy; 1,354 churches, chapels, and stations, including private chapels; 69 religious communities of men, and 233 of women. The Roman Catholic churches and chapels in England and Wales registered for marriages are about 660, and these may be regarded as parochial; but there are many other churches and chapels of the whole 1,151 in England and Wales (which number includes stations) which, though not parochial, are open to the public. A large proportion of the 203 churches, &c., in Scotland are merely stations, which are served from a distance, and, in many cases served only occasionally. In Ireland the archiepiscopal see of Armagh is marked vacant; there are in the province of Ulster eight Roman Catholic Bishops. In the province of Leinster there is the Cardinal-Archbishop of Dublin and three Bishops; in Munster, the Archbishop of Cashel and seven Bishops; in Connaught, the Archbishop of Tuam and six Bishops. In the British Possessions beyond the seas there are—in the Mediterranean possessions, two bishoprics and one vicariat; in North America, two arch-bishoprics, eighteen bishoprics, and two vicariates; in the West Indies, one archbishopric, one bishopric, and one vicariate; in Africa, one bishopric and four vicariates; in India, Burmah, &c., twenty vicariates; in Australia, one archbishopric and ten bishoprics; in New Zealand, two bishoprics.


LADIES IN CHURCH.

Recently a gold ring was offered as a prize at a ball in Pittsburgh, U.S., to the lady and partner who should waltz longest. One couple managed to dance from 12 o'clock until three minutes past four, when the prize was given to the winner. From the violinists' fingers blood trickled, and the dancers, whose limbs were fearfully swollen, had to be taken home in carriages.

The New French Ministry.—The French journals speak approvingly of the manner in which the Ministry has been constituted. It is regarded as a coalition between the Right and Left Centres. The new ministry is as follows:—M. Ollivier, Minister of Justice; Count Daru (Left Centre), Foreign Affairs; M. Chevandier de Valdrome, Interior; M. Buffet (Left Centre), Finance; General Lebœuf, War; Admiral Rigault de Genouilly, Marine; M. Segris (Right Centre), Public Instruction; M. Talhouet (ditto), Public Works; M. Louvet, Commerce; Marshall Vaillant, Imperial Household; M. Richard, Fine Arts.

Workmen's International Exhibition, 1870.—A difficulty of some importance has arisen in connection with the proposed workmen's exhibition next year. It is alleged that the inventions of artisans are very much exposed to piracy, working men having little protection on account of the great cost and difficulty involved in patenting. The danger will of course be specially great at the exhibition to be held in London next year. Many artisans, in fact, have refused to exhibit unless special protection be provided. A deputation has waited upon the Law Secretary to the Board of Trade, who has promised to give the matter his attention. A bill which would ensure the desired object has been drafted by Mr. Campin, of the Inventors' Institute, and is now under the consideration of Mr. Bright.—*Building News.*

Population of the Earth.—There are on the globe 1,288,000,000 of souls, of which 360,000,00 are of the Caucasian race; 552,000,000 of the Mongol race; 190,000,000 of the Ethiopian race; 176,000,000 of the Malay race; 1,000,000 of the Indo-American race. There are 3,642 languages spoken, and 1,000 different religions. The yearly mortality of the globe is 33,333,333 persons. This is at the rate of 91,554 per day, 3,730 per hour, 62 per minute. So each pulsation of the heart marks the decease of some human creature. The average of human life is 33 years. Married men live longer than single ones. One-eighth of the whole population is military. There are 336,000,000 Christians, 5,000,000 Israelites, 60,000,000 Asiatic religionists, 190,000,000 Mohammedans, and 300,000,000 Pagans. In the Christian churches, 170,000,000 profess the Roman Catholic, 75,000,000 profess the Greek faith, 80,000,000 the Protestant.

Exodus from Whitecross-street. — On Saturday the new Act to abolish imprisonment for debt took effect, and at five minutes past twelve o'clock on Friday night as many as sixty-three debtors left Whitecross-street Prison. Mr. Constable, the keeper, had informed ninety-four that they could leave, but thirty-one asked permission to remain in a little longer, and took their departure in the course of the day. Among the number was an old man named Bamacles, who had been a prisoner for twenty-seven years under an order from the Court of Admiralty. Mr. Constable told the old man that he could go, and when he got outside the poor fellow stared about him, and seemed perfectly helpless. It was thought that under the new Act an order from the Judge at Chambers would have been necessary before the prisoners could be liberated, but Mr. Constable, as a humane governor, has under legal advice opened the doors to them. Only forty-one remain in custody under commitments from county courts.

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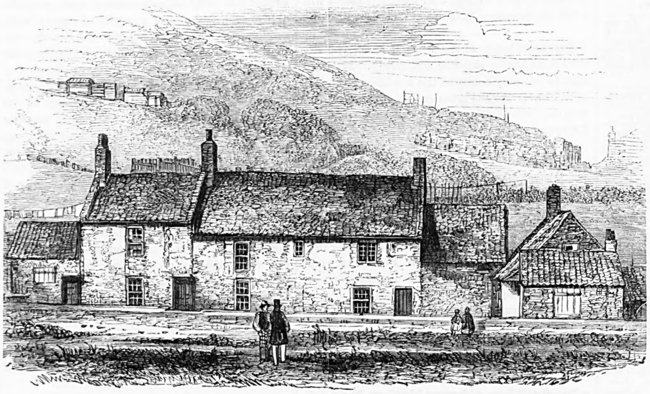
* "Womankind in Western Europe, from the Earliest Times to the Seventeenth Century." By Thos. Wright, M.A., F.S.A., &c. London: Groombridge and Sons.

BIRTHPLACE OF ROBERT STEPHENSON.

We engrave this week the birthplace of Robert Stephenson, who may be justly called the parent of our railway system, as his father was styled, with equal truth, the parent of the locomotive engine. Robert Stephenson was born on the 17th of November, 1803, in the village of Willington, near Newcastle-on Tyne. At that period we may infer that his father's means were very limited, judging from the circumstance that ten years later he considered himself fortunate in obtaining a post as engineer to a colliery at a salary of only £100 a-year. Robert Stephenson's education was necessarily restricted to such instruction as a country town could afford; but the energy of the boy disposed him to superadd the rudiments of mechanics and engineering science, which he picked up at the Literary and Philosophical Institute at Newcastle. In his father's workshop he acquired such rudimentary and experimental knowledge as naturally aided the theoretic teaching of books, and laid the foundation of his future practical knowledge. He began life as under-viewer to a coal mine in the vicinity of Willington; from thence he went to Edinburgh University, attended the lectures on chemistry, natural philosophy, and geology, and delighted his father by bringing home a prize for mathematics. A valuable trait in Robert Stephenson's character was the art of availing himself of every opportunity that lay in his way. His mind, says a contemporary writer, was too eminently practical to forego any study or pursuit which was calculated, even in its remoter bearings, to help him on in the great struggle of life; and happy indeed are they who can look back with regret upon so few opportunities missed, so few court cards thrown away out of their hands, as Robert Stephenson. Part of this early period of his life young Stephenson spent in his father's locomotive factory at Newcastle, and part in South America, and upon his return to this country in 1827 he entered with ardour into the discussion of the question then agitating all England, "Can locomotives be successfully and profitably employed for passenger traffic?" Robert wrote able pamphlets on the subject, and aided his father in the construction of the famous locomotive "Rocket," which settled the moot question. For five years he devoted himself to the study of the construction of locomotives, but he did not neglect his civil engineering business. He made the Leicester and Swannington, Whitby and Pickering, and Newton and Warrington Railways, and erected a locomotive manufactory at Newton, Lancashire, in partnership with Messrs. Tayleur. It was during this period also that the London and Birmingham Railway was begun. This was the first long line that was opened between London and the distant provincial towns, and Robert Stephenson's name is inseparably associated with the undertaking; for here it was that he showed his ability to manage the execution of works on a large scale. The plan and specifications that were drawn up and used for the London and Birmingham Railway, which was 112 miles long, involving tunnels and much difficult work, formed the models for nearly all lines made subsequently. But to dwell upon his remarkable career is unnecessary; it is before the world in more than one shape, and he who runs may read. The Midland, Blackwall, Northern and Eastern, Chester and Holyhead, Norfolk, and many other lines were made by Robert Stephenson; he built the Conway and Britannia tubular bridges, the high-level bridge over the Tyne at Newcastle, the bridge over the St. Lawrence (nearly two miles across), besides many lesser works. He twice declined the honour of knighthood, though he was not averse to the honour conferred by a seat in Parliament, representing Whitby as a Conservative for the last ten or twelve years of his life.


BIRTHPLACE OF ROBERT STEPHENSON, WILLINGTON.

The First Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers had their annual church parade on Sunday. About 400 men paraded at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, and, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Ratcliff, attended afternoon service at St. Martin's. Dr. Wilkinson (chaplain to the corps) preached.

A MONKEY PALACE.

During the past few weeks a monkey-house, or rather a "monkey palace," on a grand scale, has been added to the novelties of the Jardin D'Acclimation in the Bois de Boulogne. The collection of four-handed animals that has been got together in this new building is a very interesting one. There are two chimpanzees, several baboons of an enormous size, some fine specimens of the Aye-Aye, and many other rare members of the monkey tribe, including a lion-monkey, which is particularly noticeable for the beauty of its skin. The interior of the building is well fitted up, and decorated with coloured slates; on one side there is an immense iron cage, where during the summer time the monkeys may play their tricks in the open air. In short, there is nothing wanting that could add to the comfort of the monkeys or the elegance of their "palace."

Next Sunday the annual church collections will be made at Wolverhampton and the neighbourhood on behalf of the South Staffordshire Hospital.

The explosion at Messrs Bethell's, Gold-green, on Wednesday week, by which two men were killed, was partly investigated on Saturday at Westbromwich by Mr. Hooper and a jury. The inquiry, so far as concerned the death of Thomas Wilkinson, was adjourned for a fortnight.

A NIGHT FETE.

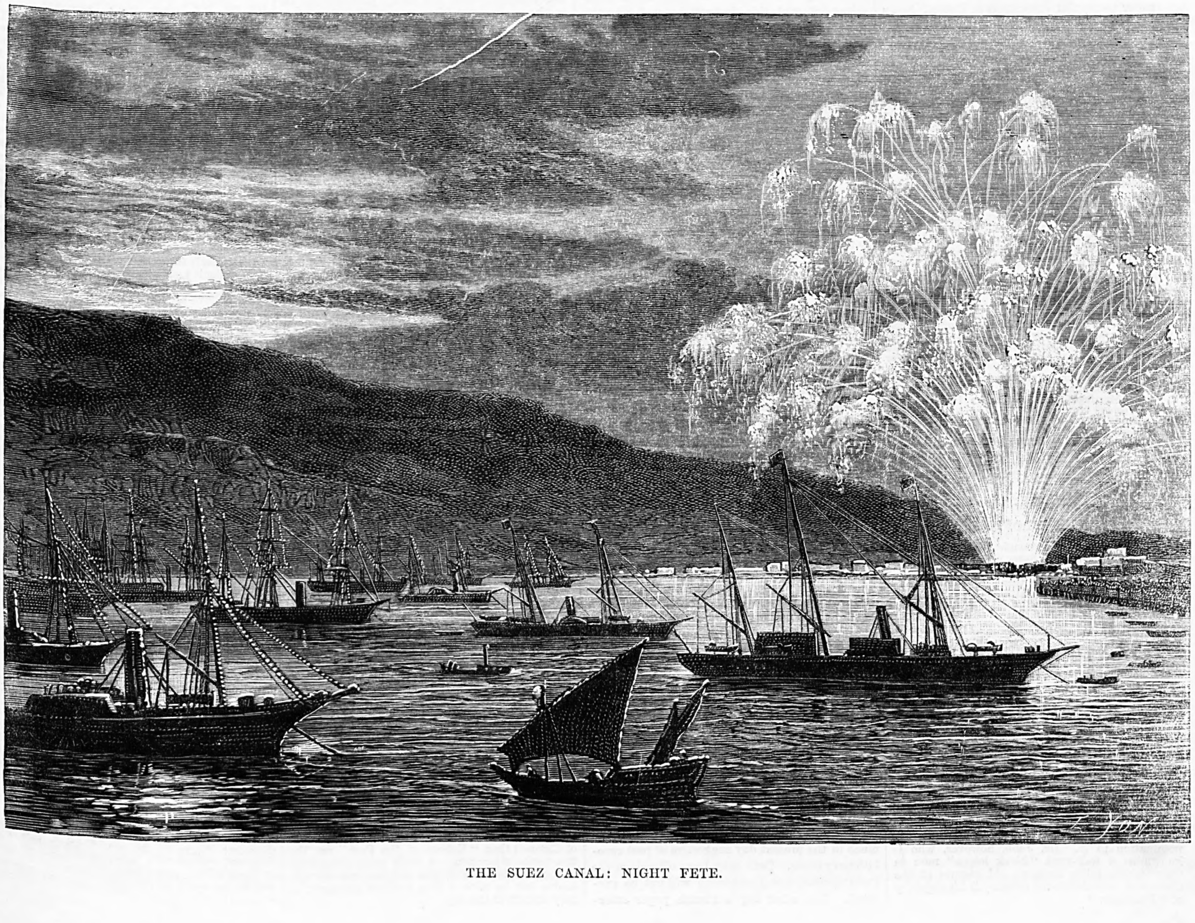
Most of the visitors to the East have returned home ere this, after witnessing the inauguration of the Suez Canal, the grandest work of modern days; and the Khedive is probably "counting the cost" of the entertainment of his numerous guests. Amongst the most attractive of the sights provided for the visitors were the night fêtes, which were characterised by great brilliancy, the fireworks rivalling those which are to be seen nowhere in such perfection as at the annual fêtes of the Emperor at Paris. On this page we illustrate one of these entertainments. The vessels and boats were illuminated, lamps were hung by the water-side, and when the pyrotechnic display was at its height the effect was truly brilliant.

Murder by Women in Liverpool.—On Sunday morning Patrick O'Donnel died in the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, from injuries received on Christmas-day. The window of the house where he lived was broken from the outside, and on his going out to see how it had been done he was set upon by a number of women, who beat him about the head with pots and delf ware, dragged him into an adjoining house, and struck him with a poker and stool. A policeman saw this part of the affray, and finding that the man was seriously hurt had him conveyed to the Northern Hospital. His dying depositions were taken on Friday evening by Mr. G. Melly, M.P. Three women—two sisters named M'Namer, and Bridget Gilgillan—were arrested, and are now in custody on remand.

Baby Farming in France.—A widow named Lafosse, living at Bancourt, in the commune of Houdan, has for some years past made a business of receiving children to nurse. Out of eighteen children entrusted to her within four years, sixteen died. An inquiry was instituted, but the medical evidence did not establish either criminality or negligence on the part of the woman. It was, however, shown that she had appropriated the money sent for the burial of the children, and for this offence she was condemned to three months' imprisonment. It transpired that one night her house took fire, when she was several miles distant, having left a child seven years of age in charge of the infants entrusted to her.

The Wolverhampton Town Council are insisting that manufacturers must insure the consumption of smoke from their works.

The total quantity of herrings landed at Lowestoft during the past season was 6,912 lasts, or 9,238,400 fish. Large as the quantity may seem, it was 250 lasts, or 3,300,000 fish, less than in 1867-8. This falling off was compensated for, however, by the somewhat higher prices which prevailed during the last season.


THE SUEZ CANAL: NIGHT FETE.

SPECIAL Advertisements inserted in this column at special rates.

NOTICE.

IN consequence of numerous Complaints from private persons and the trade, that the ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS is only to be obtained with difficulty in London, Messrs. Hatton & Co., beg to state that they have OPENED a SPECIAL PUBLISHING OFFICE, at 33, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, under the management of Mr. R. Watson. Henceforth, all the London Agents will be supplied from that office every Friday morning, and the paper can be had there at all times. Country agents may now order through *all the London Agents*, in the same way that they order their London papers.

HEAD OFFICES: 108, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

NEW SONGS, by E. LAND.—LA GITANA (Joyous and Free.) Valse Cavatina. "Brilliant but not difficult, showy and effective, encored nightly." 24 Stamps from LAMBORN COCK, 63, New Bond Street. Also, "Whisp'rings from my Angel Love!" Sung by Mr. Vernon Rigby, with immense success, 19 Stamps, from DUNCAN DAVISON, 244, Regent Street, and all Musicsellers. [479

SOUTH OF ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE for YOUNG LADIES, HARRAGE HALL, ROMSEY, HAMPSHIRE. A select number of Pupils received at this establishment, the constant aim and solicitude of the Principal being to combine the comforts of a cheerful home and maternal care with the intellectual advantages and order of a carefully-regulated school. The system of education, based on christian principles, is comprehensive and efficient, calculated to render the pupils observant, amiable, and intelligent. The course of general tuition comprises superior instruction in the higher branches of history, science, and literature, with unusual facilities for the acquirements of the various accomplishments. The house is spacious, airy, and detached, pleasantly situated with extensive gardens, shrubbery, and pleasure grounds. The salubrity of the situation has long been proved and acknowledged. A very kind, cheerful home afforded to children from India, of whom the entire charge in every way is taken: reference to parents now in India. The domestic arrangements are conducted in a very liberal manner, the health and comfort of the pupils being the primary consideration. A Parisienne and German governesses resident. Ladies prepared for efficient governesses; also, for Queen's College, and Oxford and Cambridge examinations. Railway Station five minutes' walk. For terms, which are inclusive, address, The Principal, Harrage Hall, Romsey. Studies will commence (D.V.) on January 22nd, 1870. The Principal is in London, and would see any ladies desirous of sending their daughters who are not at Waterloo Station to come in charge of a governess to Romsey. [496

WHAT IS THE HOLY GRAIL? See CHAMBERS' ENCYCLOPÆDIA, under article Grail. [505

GWENDOLINE'S HARVEST. An Original and interesting Novel in CHAMBERS' JOURNAL on New Year's Day.
GWENDOLINE'S HARVEST. [504

W. T. BELCHER, Mus. Bac., Oxon, Fell. Coll. Org., Professor of the Organ, Pianoforte, Singing, and the Theory of Music, 3, Hampstead Road, and at 23, Worcester Street, Birmingham. [403

OXYGEN IS LIFE.

SEE "Oxygen, Nature's Remedy in Disease." Sent Free for Four Stamps, by G. Barth, 26, Duke Street, Bloomsbury, W.C. Reference kindly permitted to several recent cases. [422

NOTICE.

THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS IN PARIS AND ON THE CONTINENT.

This paper may now be purchased in Paris at 50 centimes (about 5d.) at the Kiosks, and at the bookstalls on all the French Railways.

M. de Bernardy, 8, Place de la Madeléine, is the Wholesale Agent in Paris; and will supply the paper to regular subscribers in France, Spain Italy, and Switzerland.

TO AGENTS AND ADVERTISERS.

The sale of the *Illustrated Midland News* is increasing largely. The permanent character of the publication makes it a most desirable medium for Advertisements. As we can only devote a limited space to public announcements, advertisers should send their orders not later than Wednesday at noon in each week.

Wholesale Agents for THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS are being appointed in every town in the kingdom. Terms, and full particulars, may be learnt on application at the Office, 108, New Street, Birmingham.

P. O. Orders to be made payable to the Publishers. Cheques to be crossed Birmingham and Midland Bank.

Communications and orders for Papers or Advertisements should be addressed to the *Publishers*, and not to the Editor.

All remittances will be acknowledged on a printed receipt form, *and no other receipt will be held valid.*

Advertisements are inserted at the rate of 6d. per line up to 25 lines; from 25 up to 50 lines, 9d. per line; after 50, 1s. per line. Space will be measured as lines. Scale and measure may be had on application at the Office. Double columns charged at one-fourth more than the rate of two columns. No extra charge for approved cuts.

Mr. Allday is our only authorised Advertisement Canvasser in Birmingham.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths are inserted at a uniform charge of 2s. 6d.

The Trade will be supplied with this paper in London by Messrs. Smith, 186, Strand; by Messrs. E. Marlborough & Co., Ave Maria Lane, E.C.; and at the London Publishing Office of the Paper, at 33, Essex-street, Strand. Annual Subscribers can be supplied free by post direct from the Office, 108, New Street, at 17s. 6d. a year.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ONE FROM BIRMINGHAM (Congleton).—We suspect it is the Agent's fault. The paper ought to be delivered at the latest on Saturday.

"M. W." (Worcester) is thanked for his information. We will see that the matter is looked up.

CLERICUS is informed that several engravings of ecclesiastical edifices are in hand.

ADMIRER OF ENTERPRISE can assist the Paper by speaking of it to his friends. We shall be glad to have from him and from other subscribers any information concerning the distribution of the Paper.

Thomas Hubbald fell into the machinery between the water-wheel and the driving-wheel on Saturday evening at Hyde Works, near Kinver, and was crushed to death. His remains could hardly be identified.

A DISPUTED QUESTION.—An ecclesiastical case of some importance will be heard in the Court of Queen's Bench in the forthcoming term. Some months since a canonry residentiary in Hereford Cathedral became vacant by the death of the Rev. Mr. Evans, and the bishop claims the nomination to it. Dr. Jebb, however, who is known as a well-read "black letter" man in Convocation, relies upon an old statute of the Cathedral, and claims the canonry it his capacity of "Prælector."

The Illustrated MIDLAND NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, JAN. 8, 1870.

THE question of shelter for cabmen, lately suggested in these columns, has been taken up by the Birmingham Branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Birmingham Town Mission to Cabmen. The Town Council are to be memorialised, and we shall be glad to hear that the Corporation will allow the proposed huts to be erected.

THE humiliation of the Viceroy of Egypt excites considerable surprise and gossip. It is said that he has only accepted the conditions imposed upon him by the Porte under protest. There will be a day of reckoning, which may involve serious European complications.

THE Suez Canal Company is already engaged in two lawsuits. A French vessel was detained at Port Said for the fêtes, the company agreeing to tow her afterwards down the Sea of Suez. The company failed in this agreement, and the vessel went ashore and was wrecked. In the other case a steamer chartered by the Peninsular and Oriental Company with coals for delivery at Bombay, being too deep in the water, the company compromised the matter by purchasing half of the cargo and taking the ship so far emptied through the canal at reduced rates.

THE working-men of Chester have just received a liberal gift from Alderman Meadows Frost. It is a Club House, of which the Town Council are to become trustees for the benefit of the working men, who will have the management in their own hands, and who manfully propose to make the institution self-supporting by weekly subscriptions. The rooms are fitted-up for reading and recreation, and the largest apartment in the building is to be devoted to the use of Friendly Societies. A large body of working men held a meeting on Saturday, and passed a graceful vote of thanks to the worthy Alderman for his generosity.

THERE is a gleam of daylight at last in the wages disputes of the north of England, which we hope will spread throughout the Midlands. The recent trade difficulties at Darlington are in a fair way of being finally and completely settled by arbitration. We hope some determined effort of this kind will be made to settle the continual disputes in the nail trade of this district. We are now in the midst of another strike with more meetings at Old Hill, and fresh miseries in store for women and children. Cannot masters and men be induced to refer their differences to Mr. Rupert Kettle, the prophet of arbitration? Trade disputes and strikes within the last few years have done more to cripple the commerce of England than all the foreign competition of modern days.

IT was reported the other day that a distinguished nobleman of the Midlands was anxious to find a hermit to reside on a picturesque part of his estate. We do not know whether his lordship secured this romantic human commodity, but this week the "Skiddaw Hermit" has turned up again. Taking into consideration the recent inclement weather, perhaps this gentleman might prefer a change. At present he resides on the summit of Skiddaw, his clothing never consisting of more than a canvas shirt and trousers of very coarse material. He wears no shoes nor stockings. A newspaper correspondent describes him as an intelligent-looking man, with strong marked features, and a profusion of black matted hair on his head and the lower part of his face. He dislikes the restraints of civilised society, and from a boy has objected to wearing much clothing. He says he cannot live except when free and in the open air. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"But for the assurance that he has been seen lately on the elevated position which he has selected for his residence, we could almost have been certain that we have seen the 'Skiddaw Hermit' walking about in the squares and wealthy neighbourhoods of London during the past week—we have, at all events, seen other gentlemen with the same perverted taste as to clothing, and we venture to suggest to them, and all tramps, that it might be as well if they would join the hermit at top of Skiddaw." Perhaps the hermit of that favoured mountain would prefer that the London gentlemen should retire to other promontories. There are a few professional beggars in the Midlands who might with advantage to society retire to Snowdon. We believe it is quite as comfortable and pleasant a mountain as Skiddaw.

OBSERVANT critics of French manners find much in the present day suggestive of past revolutionary times. Bets have been offered on the Paris Bourse, that Traupmann will not be executed. The other day a French paper entertained its readers with the following conundrum:—"Why is Traupmann about to become a minister? Because he will occupy the Place de la Roquette"—the place where criminals are executed, and an official ministerial residence. The *Echo* says, "There is something very sickening in the insensibility which such commercial transactions and such jokes evidence, and which is an inheritance of France from the Revolution, or rather from the degradation which made the Revolution possible. This cruelty and its twin sister, profligacy, are the two most threatening characteristics of French society." France has lately been the scene of many remarkable crimes, and also of exceptional cases of wild profligacy. The cruel gossip printed in the French papers during the illness of the Emperor was remarked at the time by an accomplished correspondent of the *Athenæum* as a strong illustration of the treacherous and cruel side of the French character. We are continually meeting with paragraph narratives of immoral intrigues in the French capital, and of the lavish expenditure of the *demi monde*. The other evening, two young men of position in company with a lady of "repute" at one of the fashionable restaurants, after dinner played piquet for a barouche, to be presented to the lady. Before play finished next morning the lady had won several barouches, sundry broughams, and numerous other vehicles, which were no doubt duly negociated in coin. Referring to the recent brutal crimes in France, the *Echo* suggestively asks if they are the result of exceptional causes or the ripe fruits of a general demoralisation. It is painful to feel that circumstances point most pertinently to the latter hypothesis.

A FROSTY MORNING.

Mr. Wood, whose picture of "snowballing" appeared in our Christmas Number, gives us, on page 320, a lively sketch called "A Frosty Morning." There has been a sharp frost, the air is clear and cold, there is snow on the ground, and the merry quartette of young ladies are out for a run after breakfast. Getting the start of the young gentleman in the distance, the four sisters have crossed the common at what sporting writers would call "a clipping pace," and are now entering the lane to the music of their own cheery voices, aided by the voice of the little dog running by their side. The trees are bare and have no leaves to rustle now, and the ground is destitute of verdure; but ere many weeks have passed, the young ladies whom the artist shows deftly tripping over the snowy pathway will be in the same lane looking expectantly for the first signs of Spring—the yellow primroses and the sweet-perfumed violets.

LITERATURE.

PICTORIAL SCENES FROM PILGRIM'S PROGRESS. Drawn by Claud Reignier Conder. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

The poor man's classic has been published in many forms and illustrated by numerous artists, but we do not remember to have seen a more charming volume than the one under notice. It is simply a series of folio plates with a few sentences of descriptive matter, illustrative of the leading incidents of Bunyan's marvellous dream. Heretofore, the skill of the illustrators has been chiefly directed to the representation of the personalities of the allegory, making Christian and Evangelist, Great Heart and Giant Pope familiar figures in the minds and memories of all who know their Pilgrim's Progress. Perhaps amongst these the most graphic and remarkable work is that of the late Mr. Bennett. Mr. Conder's work is entirely apart from his contemporaries. He has in each picture supplied an imaginative background full of quaint fancy and original conception. Gustave Doré himself might be proud of the opening illustration. "Yonder Shining Light." The mystic figure of Evangelist stands out against a wild, weird background of cloud and water. There is a breadth of effect in the whole design which is remarkable. The same may be said of "The Delectable Mountains," with their foreground of flood and underwood. There is less fancy in "Remember Lot's Wife," which to our mind is almost too literal a rendering of the biblical incident, though the truthfulness of the illustration cannot be questioned. Altogether, the work is a rare example of modern art. It is exquisitely bound, and in every respect *apropos* as a Christmas or New Year's gift book.

TALES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE BEATITUDES. By Harriet Power. London: Hatchard and Co.

A downright honest book, carefully and well written, and full of interesting domestic incident. It contains eight stories in all, every one cheap at the price of the whole volume.

ECHOES OF THE PAST FROM A RETIRED HAMLET: A TALE FOUNDED ON FACT. By Una. London: Hatchard and Co.

We hope the increasing number of domestic novels may be accepted as a reliable sign of the times. Most of the stories which have come under our notice this season are of the non-sensational class. Some of them, it is true, are dull, but this fault arises rather from the treatment than from the incidents and materials in the authors' hands. The work before us, however, is in the best style of the domestic novel—quiet, forcible, and natural. Like most of the stories of the present day, it is from the pen of a lady, and we are informed in a dedication to the Countess of Clonmel that "Echoes of the Past" are the first fruits of her pen. A little more experience of the technicalities of plot and construction will enable her to take a firm position amongst the lady writers of the day.

BEARS, BOARS, AND BULLS. With twelve illustrations. London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.

At first sight we expected to find in this attractive little work a series of Stock-Exchange sketches. We were quite prepared to find in its pages exciting stories of the "bears" and "bulls" of the last panic. We confess we were agreeably surprised to find a more harmless and interesting book, containing 172 pages of "True Stories for Children." The type is large, and the matter must be quite irresistible to children. There are numerous illustrations of a much higher class than is usually found in children's books.

THE BOY'S HOME BOOK OF SPORTS, GAMES, AND PURSUITS. London: Lockwood and Co.

This is an old friend with a new face—an old friend in a new dress, but we detect at once the well-known features, and all that made the old friend pleasant to us in past days. The "Boy's Home Book" is altogether the best and most reliable authority upon everything in which boys take a special interest, and upon many favourite pastimes of men. It is, indeed, fairly entitled to be regarded as the lawgiver of the playground. You may consult it with confidence upon all kinds of games, from "blind man's buff," up to rowing, skating, and riding. The author has omitted nothing that comes within the broad area of boyish sports, and his book will be as popular in years to come as it is now. In these days of illustrated publications it is hardly necessary to say "The Boy's Home Book" is full of interesting and appropriate pictures.

MEDEA: A Poem. By Alfred Bate Richards. London: Chapman & Hall.

Though somewhat oddly bound this work is elegantly printed on toned paper. The subject of the poem is Medea, and more particularly the picture of Medea by Frederick Sandys, a photograph of which forms the frontispiece of the volume. "Medea was the beautiful daughter of Æetes, King of Colchis. She had a brother Absyrtus, and a sister Chalciope. Her father possessed the 'Golden Fleeee,' a treasure protected by enchantment. It was guarded by a sleepless dragon and fire-breathing bulls. The fame of the 'Golden Fleece' induced Jason, son of Æson, King of Thessaly, to set sail in the 'Argo,' accompanied by fifty youthful heroes, in order to gain possession of it. On the arrival of Jason, Medea fell in love with him, and shortly after, with the view of assisting him in his scheme of plunder, she had recourse to certain incantations—being an accomplished sorceress—whereby the dragon was put to sleep and the bulls rendered tame. She then made her escape with Jason. Being hotly pursued by her father, she is said to have cut her brother Absyrtus into pieces, and to have flung his limbs behind her, in order to delay the pursuers. It may be surmised that Jason would naturally become disgusted with a woman, however beautiful, who was capable of such atrocity. At all events he deserted her after she had borne him two children, and married Creusa, daughter of Creon, King of Corinth. Medea upon this destroyed her own children and sent their bodies to Jason, and to his bride a fatal gift of fire, which destroyed her and her palace, while Jason fled from the Fury whom he had aroused to vengeance." This is the outline of the "surpassing tragic tale of horrors," which poets, painters, and dramatists have taken as a theme for centuries. Mr. Richards's performance consists of about 1,500 lines of blank verse in varying metre, and is a fine interpretation of the artist's conception. The story is most ancient, but in the poem there are middle-age allusions and illustrations. We often, however, find the *exception* better than the *rule*, and we quite agree that in this case such treatment is by no means a fault—*au contraire*—for "human nature and motives, vices and virtues, crimes, and heroisms, are similar in all ages, though modified by manners, laws, customs, climate, education, and religious training and enlightenment." Although we believe no poem, however admirable, could convey the colouring of Mr. Sandys's "Medea," we are bound to give Mr. Richards full credit for having attempted a most difficult task with more success than could fairly have been anticipated, and more than could possibly have been had in less competent hands. The work is worth reading at the expense of many leisure hours.

THE MAGAZINES.—The *Gentleman's Magazine* for January has another short story, "The Silken Banner," by the editor. Victor Hugo's great romance is continued. The most exciting incident in it is the appearance of the Duchess in the private box at the wayside theatre, and the arrest of Gwynplaine by the Wapentake. There is an excellent paper by Cavendish on Bèsique, an exhaustive article on Alabamas of the Future, a sparkling essay on Flirtation, and other equally attractive papers.—*Macmillan's Magazine* opens with an important article on Admiralty Reform, and another on the Irish Land Question; but the leading features of the magazine are its two stories—"A Brave Lady," by the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," and a very painful but well-written tale "Estelle Russell." Both stories are "high-class." There is a Lady de Bouguville in a "A Brave Lady," and the hero of the other story is Estelle Russell.—Unlike the other serials, most of which at Christmas crowd their pages with stories, sketches, poems, &c., the *St. James's Magazine* gives its readers as a Christmas Box a complete tale, by the author of "George Geith," entitled "My First Love." The idea is new and good; and, as Mrs. Riddell has a large circle of readers, this Christmas Box will ere now have passed through many hands. The story is illustrated by several pictures, which add to the interest of the letter-press. Next month a sequel to "My First Love" will appear, under the title of "My Last Love."

A fire broke out on Wednesday at the Tar-distilling Works of Messrs. Demuth and Co., Oldbury, caused by a vessel containing 70 tuns of liquid falling into a tank of hot pitch. Luckily the flames ran into the canal, and the damage will not be very great.

NEW MUSIC.

"The Northern Star." By Alfred Scott Gatty. London: Cocks and Co., New Burlington-street.

With just the smallest trace of inspiration from a favourite hymn, the first strains of the melody attract us by their familiarity and sympathetic force. We do not for a moment suggest plagiarism—in truth, there is great originality in the whole treatment of this pretty ballad. The change of key in the second verse is very effective, and the song is one which must obtain popularity. The words are far above the ordinary run of "poetry" written for music.

"My First Ball Quadrilles." By J. Pridham. London: Cocks and Co., New Burlington-street.

A simple and effective set of quadrilles, full of old-world music—easy to play, and irresistible in the ball room. There is a pretty frontispiece to the work, which in itself is valuable.

"The Suez Quadrille." By Adam Wright. London: Cocks and Co., New Burlington-street.

A topographical frontispiece, worthy of an album atlas, is a characteristic part of this composition. The quadrilles are sparkling and lively, full of catching melody and in excellent dance time.

"The Music of Her Voice." Written by Dr. J. E. Carpenter, and composed by W. T. Wrighton. London: Cocks and Co.

Mr. Wrighton is well-known for his pretty drawing room melodies, and Dr. J. E. Carpenter is almost equally well-known for his graceful and facile versification. The little song under notice, written in three flats and of easy compass, is worthy of the fame of both author and composer. The accompaniment is skillfully wedded to the melody. The song is dedicated to C. Fechter, Esq.

"I Really am so Sleepy." By Alfred Scott Gatty. London: Cocks and Co.

Mr. Alfred Scott Gatty is getting quite a reputation for his comic songs, and deservedly so. They possess far more real humour than the popular songs of the music halls, and we need hardly say are far above them in every respect. Mr. Gatty's words are funny without being vulgar, and there is not one of his songs but what has a hearty and legitimate laugh in it. "I Really am so Sleepy" is a very simple melody, set to clever racy words, and will be sure to be a favourite amongst those who enjoy an honest comic ballad.

A BOOK AND A FLOWER.

An ancient Tome, in time-stained vellum drest,
Rare compilation of quaint fabled lore,
In which Sir Lancelot, Blanchefleur, and true Flore
Speak from the page more sweetly than the rest.

As lark's first song above the springing corn,
The heart enshrines among those past fair things
Which made the glory of now distant springs,
So treasures it the first notes of the morn

Of letters; when the world, still fresh and young,
And yet untrammelled with pedantic rules
Unconscious of the rigid after schools,
Loved what it sang of; when Love most was sung.

Therefore these heart-songs, fresh as daisy pied,
Sweet as the violet, still keep their prime
And shame the empty, glittering after rhyme,
Where want of heart in rounded phrase would hide.

Slow, I undid the clasps of silver, grown
Dark with the seasons of its rev'rend age;
And opened it and saw the close black-letter page
Like even furrows with rich harvests sown.

And as I turned the yellow faded leaves
No hand but mine had touched for many years,
I saw a flow'r of heartsease,—marks where tears
Had fallen, like the raindrops from the eaves.

It was as though I'd walked upon a grave;
Who could have wept and left this shrivelled flow'r
In some supreme but now forgotten hour?
Perhaps when Life had nothing left to crave.

Who left it there? a sermon in a leaf,
To preach of how the sweetest things first die,
And bid us—fruitless bidding!—pass them by,
Or love them lightly, knowing life is brief.

What living hand with trembling fingers laid
This relic here to rest as in a tomb?
In all the freshness of its purple bloom
In its dark prison-house, long since decayed.

Like as the flow'r, its color, not its form
Gone out of time, our ancient love appears
Close folded in the records of the years,—
Secure alike from sunshine and from storm.

St. Germain.

BIRTHS.

Piercy.—On New Year's Day, the wife of Ebenezer Camden Piercy, of The Hermitage, Hagley-road, Edgbaston, of a daughter.

Wild.—On the 2nd inst., at 9, Tuffnell Park-road, Holloway, the wife of Mr. W. C. Wild, of 74, Hatton Garden, London, of a son.

Extraordinary Cure of a Cough by Powell's Balsam of Anniseed.—"Her Majesty's Gun Boat, "Netley," Wick, North East Coast of Scotland, 7th September, 1868.—Dear Sir,—Having had a most distressing and severe cough, which caused me many sleepless nights and restless days, I was recommended by his Lordship, the Earl of Caithness, to try your most invaluable Balsam of Anniseed, and I can assure you, with the first dose I found immediate relief, even without having to suspend my various duties; and the first small bottle completely cured me; therefore I have the greatest confidence in fully recommending it to the million. Most respectfully yours, W. Linzel, H.M.G.B. "Netley,"—To Mr. Powell. Powell's Balsam of Anniseed can be had of all Chemists. In Bottles at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Warehouse, 16, Blackfriars Road, London. Ask for "Powell's Balsam of Anniseed." [4:1

NEWS OF THE MIDLANDS.

A grocers' mart is proposed at Wolverhampton.

Dr. Oliphant and Mr. J. T. Jacques have been elected medical officers of Leicester dispensary.

The Rev. L. Addison has been elected chaplain of Leicester infirmary.

A new organ, built by Mr. Porritt, has been opened at St. Luke's, Leicester.

A miners' conference is to be held at Tipton next Monday.

Mr. Gladstone is expected to visit Nottingham shortly.

In the town of Leicester and at many places in the county the Christmas decoration of the churches is unusually effective.

The usual gifts of the late Duchess of Rutland have been given away to the poor of Woolsthorpe, Redmile, and Knipton.

On the occasion of the opening of Aslockton Cemetery, Grantham, recently, the children paraded the village with flags!

Much annoyance is caused to the inhabitants of Melton Mowbray by the gathering of roughs at the corners of the streets on Sunday evenings.

About 130 of the aged poor of Harborne were feasted on Thursday week. The ladies gave the plum-puddings, which weighed upwards of 180 lbs. Those persons who were unable to attend the feast were supplied with a good dinner at their own homes.

The Coventry Board of Guardians refused at their meeting last week to allow the Union children to attend a performance of the pantomime "Prince Pippin," to which they had been invited by the manager. Many of the ratepayers are much dissatisfied by the guardians' decision.

The local *Standard* says this year more attention has been paid to the Christmas church decorations at Coventry than before. The ladies appear, as usual in this department of church ornamentation, to have done all the work.

The usual amount of Christmas singing was given, and a plentiful supply of Christmas howling and caterwauling was perpetrated on the early morning of the 25th inst., in the town of Melton Mowbray.—*Lincoln Standard.*

In the Charity Commissioners' General Digest of Endowed Chrities, the Endowment of Shrewsbury Free Grammar School is returned as £3,716 a year. At Shiere there is an Endowment producing three guineas a year "for the encouragement of psalm singing."

Wife Poisoning at Derby.—A singular discovery was made at Derby on Saturday morning, Samuel Ford, formerly a cab proprietor, and his wife, Mary Ford, being found lying in bed side by side, the man apparently dying, the woman dead. A lodger of the Fords, who made the discovery, heard no noise on the previous night, but some children in the next house were much frightened by a "dreadful moaning noise." Ford confesses that he poisoned his wife, in whose stomach a quantity of irritant poison was found.

A Raid upon the Sparrows.—On Boxing-day and Tuesday the outskirts of Bedford resounded from morning until dusk with the reports of guns in every direction. Hundreds of boys, and a large number of men also, were to be seen beating about the fields and hedges in quest of inoffensive little birds, which they slaughtered without compunction whenever they could get near enough. Starlings also had a bad time, and a few stray hares fell victims to their temerity in too closely approaching the precincts of the allotment grounds at Waterloo and the Goldington Road. We saw two girls—whether "girls of the period" or not we cannot say,—popping at bullfinches along the margin of the Goldington Road on Monday.—*Bedford Times.*

The Bellman's Chant.—At Sutton-in-Ashfield the bellman recites a "piece" in the streets on Christmas morning. This year the bellman, being ill, "only gave it at those houses which were visited by him." The "tag," was as follows:

Once more, my friends, my yearly tale I've told,
And trust you will not deem me over bold
When I salute your doors with humble knocks
To ask from each once more a Christmas Box.
This month, I have refrain'd, at your request,
From breaking in upon your precious rest,
Except upon this blessed Christmas morn,
A custom which I hope will still be borne;
But should you deem e'en this a flagrant bore,
Then rest assured that I'll offend no more.
Friends all, now I wish you with feelings sincere,
A right merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Complaints against the Rev. A. S. Prior.—The complaints which have been made against the Rev. A. S. Prior, vicar of St. George's, Wolverhampton, were investigated on Friday by the Bishop of Lichfield, who was attended by Dr. Abrahams, Bishop of Wellington, New Zealand, together with an assessor (the Rev. J. H. Iles, rural dean of Wolverhampton). The chief charges were that Mr. Prior had, contrary to the custom before he became the vicar of St. George's, adopted the surplice throughout the whole service; and that, without consulting the wishes of the parishioners, he had determined upon an afternoon service, at which he desired the attendance of the Sunday school children. The Court lasted five hours. The Bishop distinctly approved of the use of the surplice; and of afternoon services, which he thought especially disirable for Sunday school scholars, who ought not to be expected to attend the morning service. With the charges that had reference to the vicar's proposals to make certain alterations, his lordship said he could not deal. He would pledge his word to the complainants that their vicar was not the man to lead them either into ritualism or Popery.—The complainants said they did not object to the surplice as such, but only to it as a badge of party in the Church; and, in leaving they expressed their fear that the disorganisation in the parish would be rendered the more disastrous by the ruling of the Court.—On Sunday morning the Vicar, in his sermon, alluded to the conference, and assured his congregation that he never had been a party man, and that he had no tendency towards Romanism, or even Ritualism. The only point he felt disposed to insist upon was that of his right to wear the surplice as well in the pulpit as during the other portion of the service.

Evesham Town Hall is to be re-opened at the end of the month by a public ball.

The Grantham canal was frozen sufficiently last week to allow of skating.

The Rev. J. Brame, who was chaplain at the Birmingham General Cemetery for the last six years, is dead.

New year's services have been held at the Wolverhampton churches and chapels this week. The working classes were invited to attend.

A band of music attended the Union Workhouse at Wolverhampton on Christmas Day and played several sacred pieces.

A local paper informs its readers that "Notices 'not to trust wives' are advertisements, and can only be inserted when paid for as such."

Walter Gibson, aged 14, has died in the Lincoln County Hospital, while under the influence of chloroform.

There is a vacancy for a bass singer at Lincoln Cathedral. Six candidates were tried the other day, but no decision was come to.

The poor of Worcester are being supplied, by the aid of a local fund, with coal at fourpence per cwt.

The Earl of Shrewsbury has placed at the disposal of the mayor and corporation of Stafford £250 for distribution amongst the poor of the town.

The Stratford-on-Avon Amateur Dramatic Society performed "Our Wife" and "Good for Nothing," at the Theatre in that town on Friday.

An address, and a cabinet containing £131. 3s. 1d. were presented on Saturday to Mr. J. Marris, late house surgeon at the Warneford Hospital, Leamington.

Mr. C. L. Jones, described as "a gentleman of property," of Hanwood, Salop, has been sent to prison for a month with hard labour for assaulting his servant, Mary Lowe.

The North of England Iron Trade.—It will be remembered that last spring Mr. Rupert Kettle was called in to arbitrate on a wages question between the masters and the men in the north of England manufactured iron trade, and that he arranged it by awarding the men 5 per cent. addition to their wages. The men now ask an additional 10 per cent., refusing 5 per cent., which the masters offer.

Two Brothers Drowned.—A shocking ice accident has happened at Wollaton, Nottingham. Two boys, aged 10 and 11, sons of Mr. Matthews, the park-keeper to Mr. Akroyd, of Wollaton Hall, were sliding on a pond on Thursday afternoon, when the ice gave way, and first one brother and then the other fell through. The story was touchingly told at the inquest by a boy named Clark, who endeavoured to rescue the brothers. He pushed a rail towards them, and one of the boys got hold of it, and clutched his brother by the collar. For a quarter of an hour they were endeavouring to get out, one brother continually pulling the other under the ice. The eldest at last said, "I can hold on no longer, and wish you good-bye." Both then went down, but came up again, the youngest saying, "Good-bye; I shall have to go." They both began to pray, and then went down, rose once more, and then sank. Clarke's evidence was so affecting that several of the jury wept during its recital. The verdict was accidental death, and Clarke was praised for his conduct.

The New Telegraph Arrangements.—The new system of working the telegraphs by the Post-office will come into operation on the 29th inst., by which time it is believed the work will have been completed in all its details. In a previous number of this journal an article appeared giving particulars of the scheme, the arrangement of which, so far as Birmingham is concerned, will be carried out as we have stated. The head office in Cannon-street will have the following money-order offices connected with it for telegraphic purposes: Five Ways, Deritend, Highgate, Horse Fair, Bristol-road, London Works, Parade, Six Ways, Hockley Hill, Constitution-hill, Snow-hill, Aston New Town, Aston-street, Barker-street (Lozells), King's Norton, Sparkbrook, Moseley, Knowle, Small Heath, Acock's-green, Sutton Coldfield, Aston Park, Erdington, Selly Oak, Harborne, Oldbury, Smethwick, West Smethwick, and Perry Barr. Mr. Herbert is the general superintendent of the telegraphs in Birmingham, and Mr. Radcliffe the telegraph engineer for the district.

Ladywood (Birmingham) Co-operative Society.—The Mayor of Birmingham presided at the fourth annual meeting of this society on Monday evening. The report stated, *inter alia*, that the business transactions during the year amounted to £6,880 15s. 11½d., while in 1868 they only amounted to £4,657 6s. 3½d. The business done in the last financial week in 1869 exceeded in value the whole of the business done in the first nine months of the society's existence in 1866. The profits for the year amounted to £250 9s. 1½d., an increase of £70 over the profits of the previous year, and the committee were able to declare a dividend of 1s. in the pound on all members' purchase cheques returned to the society, and 6d. in the pound on non-members' purchase cheques, in addition to which five per cent. interest had been paid upon the subscribed capital of the society, which stood at £802 7s. 0½d. in December, 1868, and now amounted to £1,244 17s —an increase during the year of £442 9s. 11½d. The whole of this capital was subscribed by working men and women, and the society was managed entirely by working men, who followed their ordinary employment during the day. The people of the Midland Counties were fast taking their place as practical exponents of the co-operative principle. The Banbury, Gloucester, Kidderminster, The Lye, Princes End, Bloomfield and Coseley, Handsworth, West Smethwick and the Birmingham Perseverance Societies were engaged with this society in the propagation of the cause: and the Birmingham tailors, The Lye nailers, Wolverhampton platelock makers, the Leicester hosiers, and the Wolverhampton shoemakers, had all shown that co-operation in its highest form—namely, that of production—was steadily growing. The report was adopted, and speeches followed in support of the movement by Mr. S. S. Lloyd, the Rev. W. Giles, Mr. Dixon, M.P., Mr. Jesse Collings, &c.

At Shrewsbury £600 has been subscribed for the sufferers from the floods.

John Taylor, a youth, was drowned while sliding at Shipley, on Friday.

The Willenhall people are agitating for the adoption of the Free Libraries Act in their town.

Mr. Griffith Parker, the newly-elected Mayor of Welshpool, is dead.

Mr. Rupert Clarke, coroner for East Berks, is dead. The coroner for Poole died suddenly on Wednesday.

A commission has been appointed by the Bishop to enquire into the present system of proprietary pews at Leamington Parish Church.

Mr. Bright, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Muntz will address their constituents on Tuesday next, the 11th inst., at the Town Hall, Birmingham.

Lloyd Gittins, of Shrewsbury, has been committed for trial for the manslaughter of his sister.

Fritchley School Church, Derbyshire, was opened on Sunday evening by the Bishop's licence.

Birmingham Joint-stock Bank.—The directors of this bank have announced a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, the surplus profit to go to the reserved surplus fund.

There appears to be a probability that Mr. Hutchinson will retire from the Chairmanship of the Midland Railway at the February meeting. Mr. Price, the present Deputy-Chairman, is spoken of as his successor.

Madame Rudersdorff slipped on the pavement at Derby last week, and injured her wrist. A local paper says she sang with evident effort at the performance of "The Messiah" on Wednesday week.

A "van demon" was completely overturned in the Moseley-road, Birmingham, on Tuesday, by Hamblin's omnibus. The pole ran into the van and turned the vehicle completely over. This is news for *Punch*, who will be glad however to learn that nobody was seriously hurt.

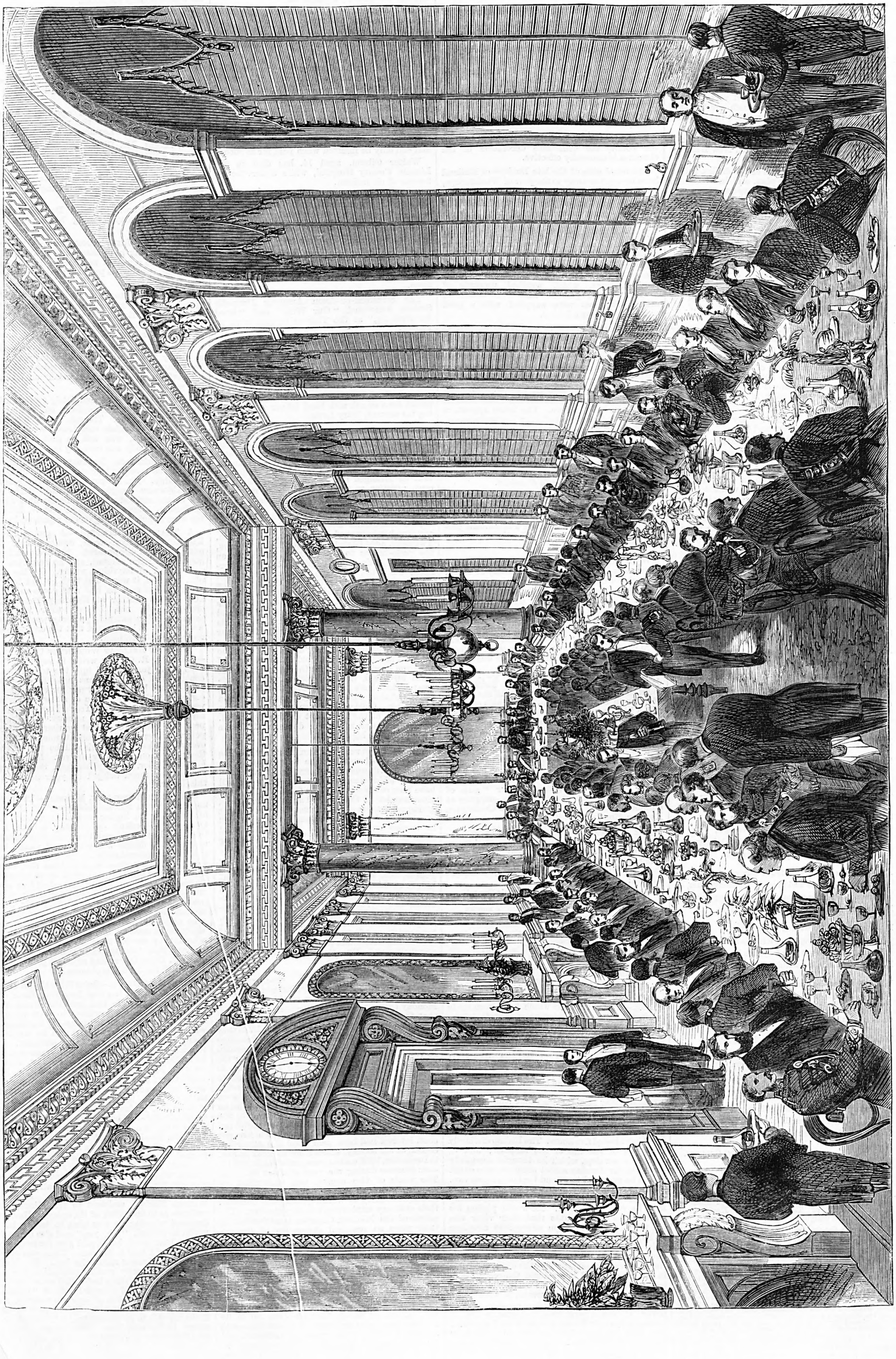
The Workmen's International Exhibition scheme was brought before the people of Derby on Monday. The Mayor explained the scheme, and Alderman Longdon hoped that Derby and the neighbourhood would be represented at the exhibition. Messrs. W. Brown and W. Millington were appointed delegates to represent Derby.

A Tradesman Missing.—A grocer named Kennedy, of Albert-street, Summer-lane, Birmingham, has disappeared. He had purchased goods to a large amount, and no suspicion was entertained of anything wrong. On the 27th ult., however, it was found that he had left his premises, and that he had sold goods valued at £800 to his brother at Holloway Head. The creditors did not believe this, and the premises being entered, property worth £1,600 was found. It is expected that the creditors will realise a good dividend.

The New Bells at Worcester Cathedral.—The Rev. R. Cattley writes to say that these bells "are just hoisted into the tower, but in consequence of restorations not yet completed they cannot be properly rung for some time to come. At the solicitation of a few friends they were sounded on New Year's Day, but necessarily in a most imperfect manner. The whole peal has been pronounced by thoroughly competent judges to be in excellent tune, and I have every confidence that this will be proved when the proper opening day arrives. In justice to Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, the founders, I shall feel much obliged by your insertion of this letter."

Strike of Horse-nail Makers.—The horse-nail makers in the neighbourhood of Old Hill have struck for higher wages. About 200 men attended a meeting on Monday at Old Hill. One speaker considered that the first question they had to decide was whether it should be a partial or a general strike.—Jos. Willetts thought that before they came to a decision they should ascertain the relative position of those intending to play and those at work; and asked how many masters were going to have their work at 3s., whilst they were at play for 3s. 6d.?—Mr. Johnson said he had sent notices to nineteen masters, who employed about 600 men, and there were six or seven masters, and about 100 men, against whom they would have to contend.—It was resolved that "the horsenail makers of Old Hill, Rowley, Hales Owen, and adjacent parts, should play until the 3s. 6d. is obtained."

Killed by Opium.—John Wheatley, a watchman, of Coventry, has died from the effects of a dose of opium. He had lost his situation on Christmas-eve, and it seemed to prey upon his mind very much. On Christmas-day the deceased went into his wife's room, and said he wanted a light, he was going back to his situation. She told him she thought he had been dreaming, but he replied he must go and fetch his key, and go back to his place. She thought he had been wandering for the past two years. He appeared very indifferent at times. He was constantly sitting by the fire. On Wednesday night he went to bed, giving her a handkerchief to warm, which she did, and he carried a cup of water upstairs with him. Next morning she went into his room, hearing a great noise, and found him snoring. She tried to wake him, and called, but he made no answer. He was unconscious, and she could not lift him up. She went for her son-in-law, who came immediately, and Dr. Dresser was sent for, who on his arrival did all he could to restore him, but it was useless. Frederick William Marlow, assistant to Mr. Hinds, gave evidence as to the selling of the opium. He asked deceased whether he was used to taking it, to which he replied, "Oh, yes," and also asked the master how much he should give for twopence, and was told half a drachm. There was only a plain piece of paper round the box. Mr. Hinds said the reason why greater precaution was not taken was that a tramp had called some few days before and produced several labels of "opium—poison" from chemists all over the country, and on their production he had sold him some opium. Believing this to be the same man, he had allowed opium to be sold him. The Coroner said he should consider it his duty to send a copy of the depositions to the Secretary of State, as he thought selling opium in that way was very dangerous.



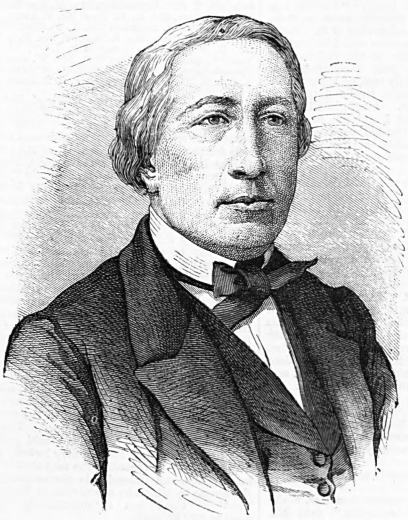
LORD NAPIER OF MAGDALA AT BIRMINGHAM: BANQUET GIVEN BY LIEUT.-COLONEL RATCLIFF AT THE GREAT WESTERN HOTEL. *(See page 318.)*

NEW DEPUTIES OF THE SEINE.

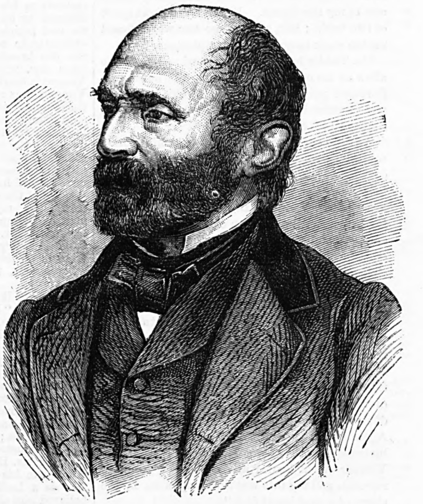
In Number 16 of the *Illustrated Midland News* we furnished our readers with a large illustration of the hall of the Corps Législatif, Paris, showing many of the leading members of that body. This week we engrave portraits of three of the new Deputies of the Seine—M. Crémieux, M. Arago, and M. Glais-Bizoin. The first, M. Crémieux, an ardent lover of liberty, was born in 1796, at Nimes, of Jewish parents, and in early life, in his native town, began to study for the bar. In 1830 he was placed on the rolls in Paris, and made a reputation for his brilliant and energetic advocacy of the cause of the opposition journals *le National, la Tribune, la Gazette de France, le Constitutionnel.* Having earned his laurels in the law-courts, M. Crémieux entered upon a political career in 1842, when he was elected a Member of the Chamber of Deputies, took his seat on the Left, and was one of the most ardent partizans. Opposition was M. Crémieux's *forte*, as those who sat on the Government benches soon discovered. His zeal, however, brought him into collision with the authorities, and on the memorable second of December he was arrested, and kept in prison for twenty-four days. After this, M. Crémieux confined his attention almost exclusively to his profession, in which he holds a high place for his talent and integrity.

M. Emmanuel Arago, like M. Crémieux, became famous for his connection with the events of 1848. The eldest son of "the great Arago," M. Emmanuel Arago applied himself to literature during the earlier part of his career, but afterwards relinquished the profession of letters in favour of the law. As an advocate he was one of those who in 1839 defended Martin Bernard and Barbès. He entered with ardour into the memorable events of February, 1848; afterwards he was sent to Lyons as Envoy with the title of *Commissaire de la Republique;* and subsequently represented the department of the Pyreneés-Orientales. The "events of December" caused him to retire, as M. Crémieux had done, into private life. In 1849 he went to Berlin as Minister Plenipotentiary, an office which he soon resigned. M. Arago is now in his fifty-seventh year.

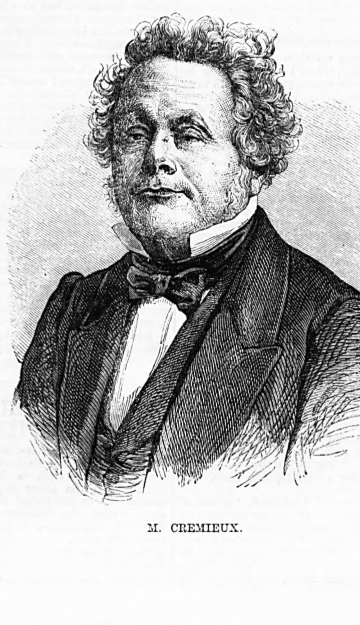
M. Glais-Bizoin, who is Deputy of the fourth circumscription of the Department of the Seine, was born on the 9th of March, 1800, at Quintin (Côtes du Nord), and began life as an advocate in 1822, allying himself politically with the Liberal opposition. After the Revolution of July he was nominated Counsellor-General and Deputy of the *arrondissement* of the Loudéac, and was determinedly re-elected until the year 1848. He took an active part in the movement for reform, and signed the act of accusation against the last Ministry of Louis Philippe. After the revolution of February, M. Glais-Bizoin was nominated a representative of the people by 92,308 votes, standing fourth on the poll out of sixteen candidates contesting the Côtes-du-Nord. He was unsuccessful in his candidature for the Legislative Assembly at the election of the 10th of December, and retired into private life, being elected in 1863 a Deputy of the Corps Législatif for the First Circumscription of the Côtes-du-Nord. For the last twenty-four years he has had a seat in the Parliamentary assembly. From time to time M. Glais-Bizoin has contributed to dramatic literature, besides having written on politics, &c. In 1862 he published a comedy in five acts, written in verse, and entitled "*Une vraie Bretonne,*" or "*Un cas pendable;*" and now enjoys a high reputation both as an orator and a *littérateur.*



M. ARAGO.

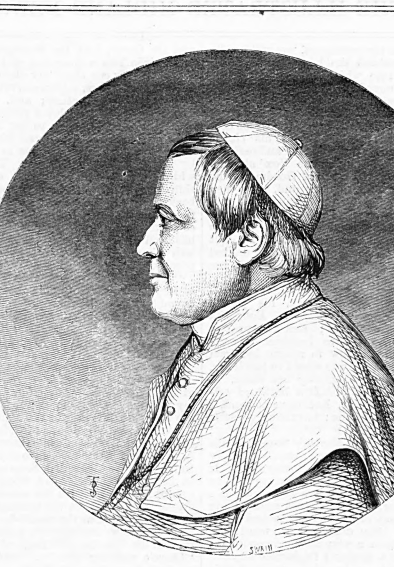


M. GLAIS-BIZOIN.



M. CREMIEUX.

Comfortable for Playgoers.—As anything (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*) which tends to promote the comfort of playgoers is interesting to a large circle, we direct attention to a letter that appears in the *Builder* of last week, containing a statement, which, assuming it to be correct, cannot fail to add to the interest of the evening's amusement. Some of our theatres, says the correspondent of the *Builder*, have large central glass gaseliers, with pendants, which are by the draught of air drawn up in a constant swinging motion. Friction is going on with the slight supporting wires, and, sooner or later a few of the pendants will quietly drop on the head of an attentive auditor, and may cause a scene never contemplated by any when first entering the theatre. There are some among us who contemplate so much in the way of discomfort and disgust when we enter a theatre that we doubt if the fall of a gaselier would disturb our equanimity to the extent anticipated.



PIUS IX.

POPE PIUS IX.

Public attention, frequently directed Romeward, is now centred upon the Eternal City and the head of the Roman Catholic Church, whose words and actions at the Council have been reported by special correspondents with all the minute detail which distinguishes nineteenth-century chroniclers.

Pius IX., whose portrait we engrave above, is a member of the noble family of Ferretti, and was born at Senegaglia May 13, 1792. Originally intended for the army, he resolved to devote himself to the service of the Church; and having, several years after his ordination, performed a mission to the Government of Chili, South America, to which he had been nominated by Pius VII., he was appointed by Leo XII. to one of the most important of the ecclesiastico-civil departments of administration. At Naples, in 1836, his disinterested efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the poor from cholera make his name still revered by the inhabitants of that city. In 1840 he was created Cardinal Archbishop of Imola, in the Romagna, and succeeded in restoring peace in the district, where there had been much political disaffection. When Pope Gregory XVI. died in 1846, Cardinal Ferretti was elected to the Papacy under the name of Pius IX. At first the new Pope acquired great popularity by favouring the people's wishes for the reform of the great abuses of the Papal Government; but he was not prepared to countenance popular systems of representative government, and shortly after the French Revolution of 1848 his popularity began to decline. That was the Pope's first error of judgment; his second was in appointing as his minister Count Rossi, a very unpopular aristocrat, who was assassinated. The Pope escaped from Rome in disguise, and, with the members of his court and the diplomatic corps, took up his residence at Gaeta, the first town in the Neapolitan territory. He declared void all the acts of the Government, which he superseded by a State Commission. The Roman Chambers, however, treated the Papal ordonnance with contempt, and appointed a Provisional Government. For nearly a year and a half the Pope remained at Gaeta and Portici, and during his absence Rome, which was then occupied by Garibaldi and his native troops, was besieged and finally taken by storm by the French army under General Oudinot. On the 12th of April, 1850, the Pope re-entered Rome amidst the thunder of French cannon. In December, 1864, the Pope issued his famous Encyclical, the strong Ultramontanism of which destroyed all hope of union between Liberal Roman Catholocism and the Papacy; the French troops withdrew from Rome at the end of 1866; and ever since the Pope's situation has been extremely precarious.

Those who have been granted audience at the Vatican agree in describing Pius IX. as being distinguished for his affability and graciousness, and as having a kind word for all. The special correspondent of the *Echo* says the Pope is a good deal aged this year. He seems to have lost some teeth, and his mouth ceases to bear that stereotyped smile visible twenty yards off which one used to dislike so much, and has instead rather a discontented expression, owing probably to the corners of the lips drooping a little. He seems feeble in carriage, but his voice continues wonderfully clear and strong. You can hear it from his throne at the end of the church quite plainly at the centre of the great nave. Cardinal Patrizi, who was with him at the altar, also looks very old and feeble. Very fit representations the two of them seemed of worn-out faith and obsolete forms.

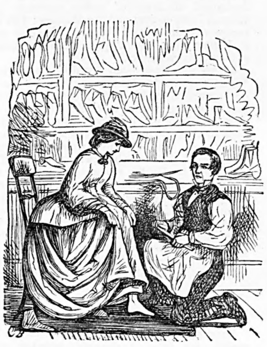
The Pantin Tragedy.—The trial of Traupmann for the barbarous murder of the Kinck family at Pantin terminated in the prisoner being sentenced to death. After his condemnation he remained silent on his way back to the Conciergerie. On the two previous days he had assumed an air of gaiety, and had at once asked for his dinner. His attitude on Thursday was quite different, and on seeing M. Claude, with several other officers of police, he could not subdue a certain emotion. The warders immediately seized him, stripped him completely, and dressed him in the prison shirt, trousers, and strait-waistcoat. During the first part of that operation Traupmann did not pronounce a word; but his features became contracted at moments, while he grew paler than before. But when this last garment was being buckled, he begged that it might not be fastened too tight; and then remarked, "What a piece of nonsense you are doing now!" He intends to appeal to the Court of Cassation. A woman, who is thought to be insane, has given herself up as an accomplice.

The Foreign Coal and Iron Trades.—Numerous orders continue to come to hand at the Champagne (France) Works; the rolling-mills of the district are overdone with orders. Prices have presented little change. The foundries continue well employed; the Tusey and Dammni works are delivering between them 110 turn-tables to the Eastern of France Railway Company. It was recently announced that the forges of the centre and the south of France had made an advance of 8s. per ton in merchants' iron; this announcement was, however, premature. The Hayange house has concluded a contract for rails for Austria; the terms are stated to be £9 2s. 6d. per ton, with deliveries at Prague. A slight fall in bar iron is noted in Belgium; pig has also been readily disposed of, and there are little or no stocks. There has been a good demand for plates of all thicknesses, and, upon the whole, Belgian metallurgy may be said to be enjoying continued prosperity. The Belgian coal trade is also fairly active, although it suffers from inadequate supplies of rolling stock on Belgian railways.

Trade of the District.—So completely has the week been given up to holiday-making that we have little to report in regard to the condition and prospects of trade. The boiler makers and machinists have been well occupied during the week with repairs. The forges, mills, factories, and collieries have been, in some cases, idle since Christmas eve; in others, operations commenced on Dec. 31. It is said that the Christmas holidays have been observed with more than accustomed zeal by the workpeople of the district. This indicates an improved trade in most of the leading branches. The boiler makers and machinists, who, during the holiday seasons, always form an exception to the general rule, have as usual this week been very busy with repairs, the lamentable explosion at Bradley having inspired owners of machinery with extra anxiety to secure perfect efficiency in that department. The manufacturers generally anticipate that a steady trade will set in with the new year. A large Government order for locks has been received this week by a leading firm in Wolververhampton.—*Iron Trade Circular (Rylands').*

TIMOTHY TICKLER.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "VERDANT GREEN."



CHAPTER IV.

THE TICKLER IN PRACTICE.

The shade of the wide-spreading chestnut tree was very agreeable; and, as my friend and I were comfortably seated and pleasantly occupied, and were in no particular hurry to return home, we could give our appreciative attention to Mr. Timothy Tickler while he continued his narrative.

"You must please to imagine, gentlemen," said the strolling player, "that the brief interval of a fortnight occurs between the first and second acts of my life drama. It was but a short space of two weeks; but, alas! those two weeks found me too weak to resist fresh temptations."

Mr. Tickler here made a professional pause to allow us the opportunity to inspect his burlesque-flavoured play upon words. As this inspection was attended by a profound silence, Mr. Tickler continued his story.

"At the end of that fortnight—at which period we ring up the curtain for the second act of my drama—a day came, in which, once again, the following scene was witnessed. Scene: The interior of Mr. Vamper's Boot and Shoe Emporium for Ladies. A young man of handsome exterior and graceful mien, habited in the unromantic costume of the period (the sixteen-shilling reversible gents' togs), discovered in the centre, dusting a counter and dressing a show-case. Enter (first entrance, left,) a young lady. She asks for Mr. Vamper, and is answered that he is not at home. She murmurs that it is of no consequence, and requests the young man of graceful mien to take her measure for a pair of boots. But a truce to theatricals. It was the old story, gentlemen, over again; just as though my previous rehearsal of the scene had rendered me perfect in the part. Again I endeavoured to avert my impending fate by requesting the young lady to call when Mr. Vamper was at home; and again was my offer rejected, and my fate was thrust upon me in the shape of a stockinged foot."

"I suppose," said my friend Smith, "that the young lady was the same Miss Plum of whom, just now, you told us?"

"Your conjecture is erroneous, sir," rejoined Mr. Tickler, politely. "The young lady whom I now bring upon the stage, and introduce to your notice, was Miss Bobbinet, the eldest daughter of the senior partner in the firm of Bobbinet, Tape, and Nephew. They were the chief drapers in the town; and, as the leading gentry did business with them, they were regarded as being A 1 among the tradesmen, and held their heads very high in the Town Council. Of course, Miss Bobbinet had as little to do with the shop as she had with the Town Council; and she had been educated so as to consider herself a born young lady. I don't suppose that she ever spoke to Miss Plum, the grocer's daughter, or considered her to be a Plum that was to her taste. It reminds me of some lines that I had to speak in the opening of our last season's pantomime:—

> 'I know I nose a grosser charge; for, oh! sir,
> The grocer's daughter says his charms engross her!'

"Well, gentlemen, there was Miss Bobbinet presenting to me her stockinged foot, while I knelt on one knee before her and stooped, with rule in hand, to take her measure. Would that I had taken any other measure than that which I had the madness to adopt!

"The thought of Jasper Packlemerton, of atrocious memory, flashed before me; my fingers curled in the act of tickling; the stockinged foot was temptingly near to my fingers' ends; and the idea suggested itself—'Come, let me clutch thee!' The temptation to tickle the sole of her foot had siezed me too strongly to be resisted; and I *did* tickle it! There was no mistake about it this time. I tried excuses, as in Miss Plum's case, but they were of no avail with Miss Bobbinet. Gentlemen, unless you were ever unfortunate enough to tickle the foot of a young lady under similar circumstances, you will hardly be able to understand the hapless and abject state of misery into which my ungovernable propensity had plunged me. Permit me, gentlemen, for one moment, to drown my feelings in the flowing bowl."

The play-actor refreshed himself with his cold whiskey-and-water, and puffed at his cigar; while my friend Smith turned to me and said, "I remember reading in 'Valentine Vox' about a worthy old party of the name of Goodman, who was spirited away to an asylum; and, when they wanted to prepare him for the doctors' visit, and to make them suppose that the poor fellow was really mad, all that they had to do was to strap him in his bed, and tickle the soles of his feet with a feather. It soon produced the desired effect. Did Miss Bobbinet go mad with her tickling, Mr. Tickler?"

"Something very like it," replied the play-actor. "According to Shylock, his people laughed when they were tickled. But Miss Bobbinet was not a Jewess; and the nearest approach that she made to laughter was the going into hysterics. How to relieve her from them I did not know; I was afraid to touch her, and dared not think of cutting her stays. I stayed my hand from that! If a bottle of sal-volatile, or even of water, had been at hand, I might have offered her some; but the only bottles that were within reach were bottles of blacking; and, although Day and Martin's preparation is said to be a reviver, I could not venture to apply it to the forehead of a white young lady. If Miss Bobbinet had been a nigger the application of the blacking may really have been tried as a reviver. However; Miss Bobbinet relieved my mind by coming out of her hysterics and going out of the shop. She did not say a word; but she was evidently in a very alarmed condition; and she left me in a similarly frightened state.

"Of course, I did not breathe a word of this to Mr. Vamper, and I was in hopes that the affair would blow over without giving him the chance to blow me up. Vain hope! fond delusion! An hour after, in walked Mr. Bobbinet. He was what we should call, in theatrical parlance, a heavy father; and he was fully weighted for the character; for, he was a short, fat, puffy man, whose immense respectability was proclaimed in his customary suit of solemn black, relieved by an ample shirt-front, clerical necktie, and bunch of gold seals. Mr. Bobbinet was evidently in a highly-explosive state of anger, the full broadside of which he at once opened upon me, without paying any heed to Mr. Vamper's bowings and salutations. Indeed, Mr. Vamper was so quickly made acquainted with the special object of Mr. Bobbinet's visit, that he soon found out to whom and for what he was indebted for the honour of a call from the chief draper in the town. 'Monster in human shape!' cried Mr. Bobbinet, as he stood at the left centre, while we formed a tableau of horror and amazement. 'An' hast thou dared to lay a finger upon the sole of the one sole daughter of my house and heart! by my halidame, gramercy, ifackins, marry come up!'"

"Come, Mr. Tickler," I interposed; "nineteenth-century linendrapers don't talk after that fashion. This is a realistic age. 'Is there any other article, to-day?' would be more like his lingo."

"Perhaps it would," replied Mr. Tickler, ingenuously; "but my brain was confused with the adventure, and I may have forgotten the exact words that Mr. Bobbinet used. At any rate, he rated me soundly, after the manner of the stage heavy fathers. It was in vain for me to deny his charge, or try to explain it away. His daughter had told him that I had deliberately, and not accidentally, tickled the sole of her foot; and he believed her. He threatened to procure a summons, and to have me sent to the Assizes for an assault; and I believed that he would do so. My master also threatened to discharge me, assuring Mr. Bobbinet that he would not keep me to ruin his business and destroy his reputation as a Ladies' Boot and Shoemaker; and I believed him also. I resolved, in my own mind, that I would prevent Mr. Vamper discharging me, by discharging myself. Altogether, it was a sufficiently unpleasant day; though my troubles in it were not yet quite at an end. I had done with Mr. Bobbinet, but there was another member of the Firm with whom I was to have a business transaction."

CHAPTER V.

THE TICKLER IN CONTENTION WITH TAPE NEPHEW.

"We were shutting up shop for the night," continued Mr. Tickler, "and I was revolving in my mind the course of action that I should take before the next morning dawned, when in came the junior partner of the Firm of Bobbinet, Tape, and Nephew. This was the Nephew, young Mr. Tape, nephew to old Tape, the second partner. Tape Nephew, as I afterwards discovered, was engaged to be married to Miss Bobbinet, whose father was shortly proposing to retire from the business, and to hand it over to Tape and Nephew. Miss Bobbinet had told her lover how she had been insulted by Mr. Vamper's shopman; and Tape Nephew, like a faithful and gallant knight, had rushed off to inflict personal vengeance upon me. He very quickly let me know his intentions.

"'You villain!' cried Tape Nephew, almost at white-heat with anger; 'you unmitigated rascal! to dare to tickle that young lady's foot! I'll teach you what tickling is! what do you think of this for a tickler?' and, with that, he produced a formidable-looking whip, which he evidently proposed to lay about my shoulders.

"I replied to him with a scornful laugh, and mocking jibe, 'It seems to me to be a very partic'lar tickler.'

"But Tape Nephew was in no pleasant mood; he had come to crack horsewhips, perchance to crack my skull, but not to crack a joke. 'I would punish you with my fists,' he said, 'if you were my equal in rank; but I will not demean myself by laying a finger on a low-born shoemaker's shopman. A horsewhipping will be the fitter punishment for a contemptible snob, like you.'

"'As to being a snob,' I rejoined, 'no son of Crispin need feel ashamed of his trade, when he thinks of the the great men who have been snobs of shoemakers. Gifford, of the *Quarterly*, was once, like myself, in a shoemaker's shop. So were Bloomfield and Savage, and Sir Cloudesley Shovel, and Sir William Read, and George Fox, and Dr. Carey, and Dr. Morrison'—and I could have given him a long list of celebrities; but Tape Nephew cut short my discourse by making a cut at me. Now, self-preservation, gentlemen, is the first law of nature; and, as the tickling that Miss Bobbinet's lover proposed to give me, would not be agreeable to my feelings, I stood upon my defence, and dared him to touch me. Tape Nephew replied to this in a forcible way, by giving me the cut direct. The lash of the whip barely touched me, but it was on my bare skin; for it flicked me on the cheek as I stepped back to avoid the blow. I felt anything but tickled by it; or, if tickled, it was only that kind of tickling used by the lion's tail, wherewith he has been furnished by nature with a provision to lash himself into rage and goad himself into a paroxysm of fury."

"You must have got that bit of unnatural history from Wombwell's keeper," said my friend Smith, sententiously.

"I bow to the opinion of my lud on the bench;" said Mr. Tickler, raising his hat towards my friend, as he sat on the other side of the little table, on the rustic seat beneath the wide-spreading chestnut-tree.

"Lion or lie on—truth or falsehood, the flick of Tape Nephew's whip on my cheek acted on my feelings in the same way that the monarch of the forest's tail is said to work him up to frenzy. I looked about for means of defence: they were close at hand. In an emergency, what boots it, so long as you have boots to shy at the invader. Indeed, did not Marshal Saxe say, that success in battle often depended upon boots? and I sought for success from the same source. In my despair, I seized from the counter boot after boot and hurled them at the would-be assassin's head. Tape Nephew experienced, perhaps for the first time in his life, the full force of the old saying, 'There's nothing like leather!' Talk of the celebrated meeting of Wellington and Blucher after the battle of Waterloo!"

"It was purely mythical," interrupted my friend Smith, who is an historical sceptic and refuses to believe in the pure innocence of Mary Queen of Scots and in the utter vileness of Oliver Cromwell.

Mr. Tickler gracefully passed by the interruption with a wave of his cigar. "Pardon me, sir; but that celebrated meeting must be true, because I have seen an engraving of it. However, whether or no Wellington and Blucher met after Waterloo, I will leave to the judgment of my lud on the bench; but, Wellington and Blucher boots most certainly met, on the occasion to which I refer, very close to the head, if not to the nose, of Tape Nephew. I had abundance of ammunition at hand and I did not spare my shots. Tape Nephew, blinded with rage,—to say nothing of boots—rushed at me furiously, blindly lashing with his whip. I could no more bear this than Hamlet could 'bear the whips and scorns of time.' But the worst damage that he did was on the glass globes of the gas-lamps, which he smashed to fragments with blows intended for my devoted head. At length, I saw my opportunity; I seized the last shutter that had been placed in readiness for the closing of Mr. Vamper's shop, and, with a well-directed blow at that portion of Tape Nephew's frame where the waistcoat meets the trousers, I charged him, with a wild yell of 'Up Guards and at 'em!'—or something like it; and, getting the end of the shutter well against the lowest button of his waistcoat, I fairly pushed him out of the shop and sent him sprawling on the pavement. Before he had time to recover himself, the shop-door was not only shut, but shuttered and barred; and I was master of the situation if not of the establishment. But only for a brief time. It is true, that, for that evening, I heard no more of Tape Nephew, nor yet of Mr. and Miss Bobbinet: but I knew that my morning's reflection was destined to be a sad commentary on my evening's diversion."

"Poor beggar!" ejaculated my friend Smith, puffing at his pipe.

"Your epithet is more correct than Mrs. Malaprop's derangement of epitaphs," said Mr. Tickler; "for, in my present profession of a stage player I am legally designated as a vagabond and beggar. Tape Nephew's attack upon me had the effect of confirming the resolution that I had previously taken, which was—to anticipate Mr. Vamper's discharge of me by discharging myself. It was very evident to me that I might be summoned before a magistrate, not only by Mr. Bobbinet, but also by Tape Nephew and Mr. Vamper. I therefore anticipated their notice of ejectment by ejecting myself. I packed up my wardrobe—which, I need hardly say, went into the compass of a practicable bundle; and, during the still, silent, solemn hours of midnight, I quietly let myself out of Mr. Vamper's house, and, in a word, absconded. I walked many miles that night, and then took the train; and, having the fear of arrest before my eyes, I did not consider myself safe until I had placed fifty miles between myself and Messrs. Vamper, Bobbinet, and Tape Nephew.

"Thus, you see, gentlemen," said Mr. Tickler, as he stopped for a few puffs at his cigar, "how I lost my first position in life through my ungovernable propensity for tickling the soles of other people's feet. I think that I was to be pitied. If dypsomania and kleptomania are to be accounted as diseases, surely my peculiar infirmity might also have been considered as an attack of ticklemania, for the visitation of which I might have expected to receive the commisseration of my friends. Before telling you of the next scene in my life-drama, I will, gentlemen, with your kind permission, dip my beak in Canary wine."

Whereupon Mr. Timothy Tickler refreshed himself with his cold whiskey-and-water.

(To be continued.)

THE BANQUET TO LORD NAPIER.

Thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff, for inviting General Lord Napier of Magdala, G.C.B., who received such a hearty welcome at Birmingham the other day that his lordship cannot fail to remember it but with gratification; whilst the banquet given by Colonel Ratcliff to the Hero of Magdala, which we illustrate this week, supplementary to our picture of the distribution of the prizes by Lord Napier, was one of the most elegant ever given in Birmingham. The splendid coffee-room at the Great Western Hotel at Snow-hill was the banquetting apartment. Without exception the room takes precedence of all other similar apartments in the provinces. Lofty, eighty feet long by thirty feet high, the coffee-room at the Snow-hill hotel is admirably fitted for such a purpose as that to which it was put on Thursday, the 23rd ult.; and Mr. Hall, the courteous proprietor, may be honestly congratulated on the success which attended the banquet given by Lieut.-Col. Ratcliff to the most eminent soldier of modern days.

The guests were numerous, and as the majority wore uniform, the scene, when all had taken their places, was a most brilliant one. Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff, who presided, and who wore the uniform of his regiment, the First Warwickshire, had on his right the noble guest of the day, Lord Napier, who wore the brilliant uniform of a General; amongst the other guests were—

The Mayor of Birmingham, Mr. Thomas Prime; the Earl of Dartmouth, Lord Lyttelton, Lord Lewisham, the Hon. Captain Napier, Sir C. B. Adderley, M.P., Mr. Newdegate, M.P., Mr. Dixon, M.P., Mr. P. H. Muntz, M.P., the High Sheriff of Staffordshire, General Sir John Aitcheson, the Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, (chaplain to the 1st Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers), the Rev. Canon Smythe, the Rev. Charles Evans, the Rev. C. T. Wilkinson, the Rev. Herbert R. Peel, the Rev. Charles Clarke, and the Rev. Charles Vince, Sir John Morris, Knt., Colonel Machen, Colonel Bagnall, Colonel Porter, Colonel Smythe, Major Elkington, Major Arbuthnot, R.A., Captain Peel, Captain Mercier, Captain Marsland, Lieutenant Courant, Surgeon McSheeney, M.D., Captain McKenzie, Captain Chattock, Lieutenant Alston, Lieutenant Adderley, Major Richards, Major Hebbert, Captain Mole, Captain Briggs, Captain Gem, Captain Chesshire, Captain Salt, Captain Deykin, Captain Walford, Captain Wrightson, Captain Thornton, Captain Brown, Captain Hollis, Lieutenant Turner, Lieutenant Lord, Lieutenant Madeley, Lieutenant Adkins, Lieutenant Cox, Lieutenant Mole, Lieutenant Ratcliff, Lieutenant Chamberlain, Lieutenant Tonks, Ensign Lea, Ensign Izon, Ensign Harrison, Ensign Salt, Ensign Nossiter, Ensign Lort, Surgeon Yates, Surgeon Thompson, and Surgeon Mann, Quarter-Master Campbell, and Captain and Adjutant McInnis; Mr. Rupert Kettle, Mr. J. C. McGeachy, Mr. John Marshall, Mr. John Jaffray, Mr. H. Edmunds, Mr. Registrar Hill, Mr. William Evans, Mr. E. Ratcliff, Mr. J. T. Bunce, Dr. Bell Fletcher, Dr. Mills, Dr. Foster, Mr. Alfred Baker, Mr. C. M. Caldecott; Consuls Borghers, Gould, G. A. Everitt, and Paraviso; the Mayor of Coventry, the Mayor of Wenlock, the Mayor of Wolverhampton; the Town Clerk of Birmingham, the Recorder of Birmingham, Mr. T. C. S. Kynnersley, Mr. H. Van Wart, Mr. W. R. Cooksey, Mr. C. R. Cope, Mr. T. Avery, Mr. E. Gwyther, Mr. W. Holliday, Mr. T. Phillips, Mr. John Poncia, Dr. Melson, Mr. S. Buckley, Mr. F. I. Welch, Mr. H. Wiggin, Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd, Mr. J. O. Bacchus, Mr. Samuel Thornton, Mr. W. James, Mr. Thomas Lane, Mr. Thomas Lloyd, Mr. H. Manton, Mr. A. Ryland, Mr. W. Brinsley, Mr. T. R. T. Hodgson, &c.

During the banquet the band of the First Warwickshire played a selection of music under the leadership of Mr. Synyer. After dinner came some speeches, few in number and remarkable for their interest. The toast of the evening, the health of General Lord Napier of Magdala, was proposed in deservedly eulogistic terms by the Chairman, who, referring to his lordship's fame as a distinguished warrior, said his name would be for ever associated with personal bravery, determination, and willingness to encounter any difficulty that might present itself in the way of duty to his country, and to show his devotion to the nation. His career (he continued) had been such as to entitle him to the esteem of his brother officers and the gratitude of his countrymen. After referring to various incidents in Lord Napier's military career since 1828, when he first left this country, Colonel Ratcliff referred to the Abyssinian expedition. Naturally a most difficult country, there were no maps to tell the gallant general who led the army which road to take, and there was no one to tell him that this work was required here, and that work required there. The whole matter rested entirely with Lord Napier to choose the road, and he chose the road that led to victory. The name and the fame of Lord Napier would endure as long as the annals of this country lasted; and in history would be recorded the fact that bravery, intelligence, and indomitable perseverance were the means by which he accomplished his victory. That the toast was enthusiastically received need hardly be said.

To his expression of thanks to Colonel Ratcliff and the company Lord Napier added a few words on the Volunteer movement and on the town which he was then honouring by his presence. He was very glad to undertake the duty of distributing the prizes to the Birmingham men, because he considered it the most important movement that had taken place of late years:—

> Nobody denies that it is better for the country that its protection should be placed in the hands of intelligent working men, the educated classes, and the gentry combined—forming, as it did, a union of every class of society; and, although it is not the duty of the volunteers to take part in minor troubles, yet, I consider the body of the volunteers as the great fly-wheel which will assist in keeping the constitutional order of the country. (Hear, hear.) I was also very glad to come to this city as a military engineer in a humble way to take lessons in mechanics from this grand repository of working mens' inventions. (Hear, hear.) It has always been impressed upon my mind very strongly that the claims of working men, who, perhaps, do not know a week or two hence from whence their bread will come, and who maintain their characters for honesty and independence, are very much overlooked. (Hear, hear.) I respect and esteem all honest working men. (Hear, hear.) It is impossible that anybody can visit this great and wonderful city, in which the sound of the hammer never ceases by day, and the glow of furnaces is never lost sight of by night—with this unceasing industry it is impossible not to admire this great beehive of industry, which, I believe, has done more than any other city to spread the fame and increase the prosperity of Great Britain. I feel extremely honoured by the notice which has been taken of me by the distinguished representative gentlemen who have come here to-night. I cannot but admire the spirit which has created so many, I may say, national monuments in this city—your public library, where every man, rich or poor, may go and read books and other publications free of charge, and your public parks, where every poor man can have a holiday. All these things make me feel very much honoured by the distinction this city has conferred on me, and I return you my most sincere thanks for your cordial reception.

The Mayor's health was honoured, and Lord Lyttelton proposed the health of Lieut.-Colonel Ratcliff, which was enthusiastically received, and appropriately acknowledged; after which a few other toasts were given before the company left for the Town Hall, where the prizes, which amounted in value to upwards of £800, were distributed, as reported and illustrated last week.

Lord Napier of Magdala was the guest of Colonel Ratcliff, at Wyddrington, and remained until Friday evening, when he and his son took their departure for North Wales.

NOTES ON THE JOURNALS.

Almost as a matter of course, the manager of the Bristol Theatre has been "exonerated from all blame" by the jury who investigated the cause of the melancholy accident on Boxing-night. No pre-vision could have prevented the fatality. Now, however, that eighteen persons have lost their lives by being crushed to death, attention is drawn to the undeniable fact that a similar catastrophe is unpreventible at many other theatres. The mistake that modern theatre-builders make is in erecting playhouses with insufficient means of ingress and egress. Take almost any theatre in London or the provinces as an example, and this assertion will, we think, be borne out by facts. Many Continental theatres are isolated from all other buildings, and have a variety of entrances: this is what we require in England. At present, directly an alarm of fire is given, the audience make every effort to reach one of perhaps two doors, with a result which need not be stated. A large theatre might have at least half-a-dozen entrances, at very little extra cost for doorkeepers; though we will not deny that where a Theatre forms one of a block of houses there is a difficulty in the way of providing doorways. Theatrical architects should take to heart the lesson taught them by the Bristol disaster, which has saddened many homes this Christmas, and which might have happened at a church or chapel equally as at the West-country playhouse. It is worth while mentioning that the two Birmingham theatres are amongst those which have the safest and most convenient entrances. Unlike the Bristol theatre, the approaches at Mr. Simpson's establishment ascend, so that the danger of a crush would be diminished, whereas a declivity like that at Bristol, as has been too painfully shown, increases the perils of crowding and panic.

With the exception of an occasional newspaper article on "Infallibility," and the publication of the Special Correspondents' letters from Rome, the Œcumenical Council is already a thing of the past. So much cry with so little wool is almost unexampled in history. For all the Council have done or will do, the great gathering of the Catholic hierarchy might as well never have taken place. The Infallibility question once decided in his favour, Pius IX. will rest secure of his Headship of the Roman Church. But does it not disconcert the advocates of this question to be reminded that the Council of Trent refused to accept it, and that Pope Gregory I. asserted that it was impossible that any Bishop can be universal Bishop of the Church, because no Bishop can be infallible? In an excellent article on the subject the *Echo* points this out, quoting other inconsistencies in support of its argument.

A note on a deceased journal. On Friday the *Morning Herald* appeared for the last time. It was the organ, jointly with the *Standard*, of the Tory party, who for many years gave it the support necessary for its existence. In its palmy days the defunct *Herald* was a formidable rival of the *Times*, one of whose editors, the famous Barnes, took every opportunity of decrying it. But in the publication of fresh intelligence the *Herald* often outstripped the *Times*, despite the energy of the directors of that journal; and until the Cheap Press began to assume what have now become leviathan proportions, the old-established *Herald*, which *Punch* never tired of satirising, held a leading position amongst London newspapers. It will hardly be credited that, although the Paper Duty has been repealed for several years, there are no more daily newspapers published in London to-day than there were fifteen years ago.

Some time ago one of our "Notes" contained a reference to the alleged cow-hiding of Mr. Marriott, editor of the San Francisco *News Letter*, by a Miss Elise Holt, late of the Strand Theatre, whose ire had been aroused by a criticism in that journal. Mr. Marriott writes to the *Athenæum* to say that Miss Holt's interview was with the publisher, not with the editor, that "her remonstrances were verbal," and that "apart from her theatrical performances, Miss Holt behaved during her stay in San Francisco with the utmost propriety and decorum." We are very glad to hear it.

The death is announced of Lady Louisa Greville, sister of the late and aunt of the present Earl of Warwick.

Magdalen College.—The school of Magdalen College, Oxford, had an unusual share of the honours awarded by university examiners last term. Out of its five candidates for honours, Mr. Hill, scholar of Queen's, and Mr. Kendall, exhibitioner of Merton, were placed respectively in the first and second classes of the moderators' classical list; Mr. Hicks, demy of Magdalen, gained a first class in natural science; Mr. Hill, exhibitioner of Exeter, a second class in law and madern history; Mr. Harrison, postmaster of Merton, a first class in the moderators' mathematical list. Earlier in the term three open scholarships had fallen to the school, making a total of six in the year just ended.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

A theory of meteorites presenting some points of novelty has been put forth by M. Stanilas Meunier, a careful student of meteoric phenomena. He conceives that meteors are the fragments of a planet or satellite that once revolved around the earth, or, perhaps round the moon, and that was split into fragments by some disintegrating action ages ago, but yet not at a period extremely remote; for since meteoric fragments are found only in superficial strata of the earth's crust, it is tolerably conclusive that the arrival of meteors in the earth's neighbourhood has been comparatively recent. The aërolites of to-day differ from those that fell years ago; then, they were of iron, now, they are mostly of a stony nature; and, still more curiously, a new class of fragments, containing carbon, and unknown before the commencement of this century, have lately put in an appearance. From these facts M. Meunier concludes that when his supposed world split up, the fragments arranged themselves in zones according to their density, and that the heaviest have come to the earth first, leaving the lighter parts to follow. He conjectures that in the course of time meteorites may arrive that will be analagous to the lightest materials of the earth—our crystallised formations—and perhaps even some like our stratified beds.

Coal-smoke formed the subject of a noteworthy communication made last week to the chemical section of the Glasgow Philosophical Society. Mr. Hutton was the author of the essay. He pointed out that smoke was formed of the volatile constituents of coal liberated by the heat of combustion, and carried up chimneys into the atmosphere. Analysis of smoke from London and Glasgow fires were given, and the former was thus shown to be richer in carbon than the latter, while the Glasgow sample showed excesses of sulphuric acid, sand and water; the former being ascribable to the sulphurous quality of Scotch coal. The uses of soot were alluded to, and it was instanced that considerable quantities had been of late shipped to the West Indies to be used as a fertilizer for the sugar canes. But perhaps the most important feature in the paper was Mr. Hutton's suggestion for a practical solution of the "smoke nuisance." He proposes to distil the coal before selling it to the public; not. however, to the extent to which the process is carried in gas-works, but only to that stage which would allow what is called *soft coke* to be formed. This soft coke may be described as coke with a sufficiency of volatile matter in it to render it slightly inflammable. A fair amount of gas would be thus secured, and some other useful products such as crude oil and ammonia: and the partially distilled coal could be sold cheaply in proportion to the amount of essence extracted from it; we may presume at a cost a little above that of ordinry coke. It could be burnt well in domestic fire-places and in steam-boiler furnaces, and as the greater part of the volatile matter would have been taken from it there would be little left to form smoke. Mr. Hutton shows how this principle could be worked profitably, and his figures are worth the attention of gas companies. One would like to have a coke susceptible of easy ignition; could not the end be secured by sprinkling common coke with some of the cheap hydro-carbon oils that the gas works produce?

Some interesting experiments upon the flow of electricity through plants have been published by Mr. Edwin Smith, an amateur electrician. A delicate galvanometer was connected with pairs of small platinum plates, which were inserted a short distance apart in the stems and roots of shrubs and vegetables, and into some kinds of fruit. Currents of electricity were thus discovered in the act of traversing from one part of the plant to another. Rhubarb, for instance, gave a current passing from the root-end to the leaf-end of the stalk. Sprigs of oak, bramble, chickweed and poppy, gave similar results. Leaves generally exhibited currents running from their upper to their under surfaces. In roots they were found passing from the upper parts towards the points; a nasturtium in a flower-pot was found to be giving electricity through its root to the soil, and at the same time sending currents up its stem towards the leaves. A raw potato showed that the route of its electricity was from skin to centre, but a moistened slice of a boiled one gave an opposite effect. A gooseberry, a turnip, and a pear behaved like the raw potato, a lemon like the boiled one. All these experiments although only now reported were made in the Spring; their author talks of comparing them with a similar series in the Autumn to ascertain whether the ascending and descending course of the sap will affect the results. Electricity appears to play an important part in vegetable vitality. Once an experimenter declared that some shrub of which he galvanized the germs grew with its roots in the air and its leaves in the soil!

Professor Owen lately put forth a conjecture that the horse and the ass had only been pressed into man's service as beasts of burden within comparatively recent times, basing his reasoning upon the absence of these animals from pictorial illustrations of life and usuages in ancient Egypt as set before us upon the monuments of that country. A French antiquarian, M. Lenormant, now disproves this supposition so far as the ass is concerned; for he finds the gentle beast depicted upon monuments belonging to the remotest periods of Egyptian history. But with the horse the case is different; it does not appear upon tablets so ancient, but only upon those referring to dates subsequent to the epoch of the Shepherd Kings, or about seventeen centuries before our era. So the donkey is an older servant than the horse; this is one reason why we should treat him mercifully. We may say that his race has been in bondage for six thousand years at least; who can wonder at its thorough subjugation?

The Stone Giant of Onondaga, described and depicted in a previous number, continues to excite native curiosity concerning its origin. A medical man has appeared on the field, and ridicules the idea of its being a statue; he does not say, but he leads us to suspect, that he believes it to be a petrified human body! He declares that this assumption involves less supposition than that which ascribes it to be the work of men's hands. Another writer calls attention to an Indian tradition, recorded in a history of Onondaga, that at some time or other the country had been under the evil influences of "the big hog, the big bear, the horned water-serpent, and the *stone giant*."

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

The dead season is just now at its height, and, owing partly to the recent frost, sport of all kinds has been at a complete stand-still. Our readers will be sorry to hear that Mr. Charles Randell, who is quite at the head of English coursers, is seriously ill. He caught cold while attending the funeral of the Duchess D'Aumale, whose husband bought his estate at Chadbury. A few days after this, he went to the Brigg Meeting to see Royal Bride run, and increased his cold so much that he is now very ill.

A hybrid meeting took place at Manchester on the last day of the old year and the first of the new, but we can hardly call it the opening of the flat racing season of 1870. Nothing worthy of comment occurred, and the competitors were of the Pyrennees, My Uncle, and Artichoke class, unfortunate animals that run all the year round. An unnamed filly by M. Philippe—the "yearling" that figured so frequently with the venerable Brewer in the Chester Cup entries—beat Flying Jib and Pantaloon over half a mile, and seems to possess fair speed. Racing statistics are really quite a godsend at this time, and a table of winning horses has just appeared. Sunshine heads the two-year-olds with £7663; she well deserves her position, as she won nine races out of ten, and her solitary defeat was a better performance than any of her victories. Frivolity, who was also only beaten once, and then by a fluke, comes next with £5300, the £3765½ won by Kingcraft bringing him in third. It is a noticeable fact that the three largest two-year-old winners were the first three in the Middle Park Plate, and therefore it seems probable that this year the best animals have won the largest amounts, which is as it should be. That brilliant half miler, Mantilla, has taken £2770, and the two Thormanby's, Atlantis and Hester, come next with £2020 and £1840 respectively. Paté has run twenty-three times for her £1801; but Lady Kew eclipses this performance, as she appeared in public thirty times between February 17th and November 24th, and then only carried off six races of the value of £363. Another noteworthy point is that Camel, a 12 to 1 favourite for the Derby, ran seven times for his two wins worth £345; and it speaks badly for the colts that, "bar one," the first twelve on the list are fillies! Pretender, the double winner, is the premier three-year-old, having won exactly £11,000, and Pero Gomez is an excellent second with £9790. Brigantine, whom many suppose to have been the best three-year-old of the year, has taken £6060, and Scottish Queen's single win places her fourth with £3750. Here again the placed horses in the Middle Park Plate of 1868 come to the fore. Brigantine did not run for it; but Pero Gomez, Scottish Queen, and Pretender, finished in the order named. The cowardly Ryshworth has managed to carry off £3336, and Martyrdom, the cripple, who, like Scottish Queen, has only won once, earned £3125 by defeating Pero Gomez at Ascot. The Spy comes first on the four-year-old list with £2037, but Restitution and Blue Gown run him pretty close, with £1835 and £1677 respectively: while the fine staying powers suddenly developed by Mysotis, have won her £1543. Lily, and the "plater" Mars, come next, having actually beaten See-Saw, Formosa, and all the rest of the cracks. Five wins, without a single defeat, have placed the grand old Knight of the Garter far in front of the rest of the five-year-olds, and his £2890 have been won under welter weights. Ploughboy takes £1655, and Honesty £1377, for which, however, he has run thirty-five times. Among the "six and aged" it is a case—as in most of his races—of "Vespasian first and the rest nowhere," and his £1645 make Salliet's £535 look very small. The dubious honour of having run most frequently, is shared by Clarionettee and Contempt, who have each performed forty-one times; but the former has ten wins worth £422, to set against the latter's six of £371.

The *Sporting Life* has published a table of all the yearlings sold by auction in 1868, and their winnings of 1869. From it we glean that of the ninety sold from the Middle Park Stud, twenty-six have proved winners; but her Majesty has a better average, as eleven out of the twenty-nine from Hampton Court have run successfully. The highest yearling prices of last season were 1800 guineas for the Saunterer—Margery Daw filly, half sister to See-Saw and Cradle, and 1250 guineas for the Rataplan—Borealis colt. Prices, on the whole, ruled low, and some of the "cheap" yearlings proved anything but "nasty." Thus Queen of Hearts, who only cost 40 guineas, won £1455; Mantilla's price was 280 guineas, and she earned £2770; while stakes amounting to £5300, made Frivolity a fortunate investment at 500 guineas. We hear that General Peel and Mr. Payne are about to remove their stud farm from Doncaster to Enfield, where they have secured the establishment which was lately occupied by Mr. Goodchild. Toxophilite, who was not let at the late auction, has just found a hirer. The first foals of 1870 have appeared, in the shape of Rataplan twins, which, as usual, are dead.

The Hordley (Salop) Open Meeting was the only coursing fixture of importance during last week, and the Hardwick Cup will probably probably produce a change in the Waterloo betting. It was divided between Sea Cove (late Covet), by Strange Idea—Curiosity, and Druidess, by Henchman—Veronica. It will be remembered that Sea Cove was one of the three which shared the great 142 dog stake at Bothal, and was then purchased by Mr. Spinks for a large sum. She beat the hitherto undefeated Pauline in the third round of this stake, and must be very dangerous at Waterloo. The Hordley Stakes fell to Bouquet, by Beaufort—Rosette, and Toddleaway, by Boundaway—Sarah, divided the Hawkswood Stakes with Delight by Little Wonder—Playaway.

The breaks made by W. Cook, Jun. keep increasing in size, and last week, at Nottingham, he surpassed all his previous performances by scoring 394 off the balls. The champion has returned to town, and announces his intention of replying to Cook's challenge, but, win or lose, it is to be his last match.

THE GOSSIP.

Gibraltar has an Italian Opera Company.

Revillar, the sculptor, died in Paris last week.

The *Athenæum* has been permanently enlarged, and larger type is used than heretofore.

Ballad concerts are announced by Mr. J. Boosey, and by Madame Sainton-Dolby.

"Among My Books" is the title of Professor Lowell's new volume.

Vol. 1 of Sir H. L. Bulwer's "Life of Lord Palmerston" will be published immediately.

Mr. Hepworth Dixon, the late editor of the *Athenæum*, is to edit a new paper called *Light*.

The widow (since married) of Sir Henry Bishop is singing in America with success.

Wagner, "the musician of the Future," has received the Order of the Bey of Tunis.

Louis Rickle, the leader of the Red River insurgents, is a youth possessing some literary talent.

Fifty representations of "Frou-Frou" have produced upwards of 25,000 francs.

Encores of dances are forbidden by the police at Warsaw.

Auerbach, the German novelist, intends to read his own works in the United States.

Auber's latest work, "Rêve d'Amour," in some respects disappoints the octogenarian composer's admirers.

A sketch of the late Ada Isaacs Menken, by one of her husbands, "Orpheus C. Kerr," appears in *Packard's Magazine*.

Toxicology has lost one of its most distinguished representatives by the death of Dr. Geoghegan, of the Dublin College of Surgeons.

Mr. Longfellow sent an artist residing at Derby as a New Year's gift, his portrait, a striking likeness,, accompanied by his autograph.

Amongst the Poet Laureate's friends is a Black Country puddler, living near Kingswinford, himself a poet, and the recipient of all Mr. Tennyson's works.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* appears in a new shape as a morning paper, at twopence. The evening edition is continued at a penny.

The new theatre in the Strand will open on Easter Monday, under the direction of Mr. H. J. Montague.

Mr. Niel Warner a tragedian well known in the Midlands, has returned to New York after touring through the Pacific Islands.

Mr. Charles Wilmot, an Australian comedian, will make his *début* at the Lyceum Theatre in the new operetta "Chilperic."

The two hundred-and-thirtieth anniversary of the birth of Racine has just been celebrated by the production of some of that author's works.

Mdme. Monbelli, with Mdlles. Reboux and Pauline Lewitzy, the new Russian star, have signed their several engagements with Mr. Wood for Drury Lane Theatre.—*Musical Standard.*

Mr. John Stuart Mill's work on *The Subjection of Women* has been translated into German by Professor D. A. Reyer, and is published at Graz by Pock and Company.

It is said that Mr. Bellew is getting up a novel performance of "Hamlet." The actors are to go through the play in dumb show, while Mr. Bellew reads the parts behind the scenes.

The *Register* is to be discontinued. It was started in order to carry on the obituary and other biographical portions of the *Gentleman's Magazine* when the latter was modernised.

Two new books are announced by Mrs. McFarland-Richardson, whose recent marriage to a dying journalist at New York has gained her some notoriety.

One of the best portraits in the Birmingham exhibition is that of Edward Capern, the poet. It is from the easel of Mr. J. Edgar Williams, a rising artist, who has recently painted several distinguished men of letters.

Herr Bandmann, who first appeared in this country at the Lyceum some two years ago, in "Narcisse," is playing at Melbourne with his wife, Miss Milly Palmer. Herr Bandmadn accidentally stabbed one of the actresses the other day, but not fatally.

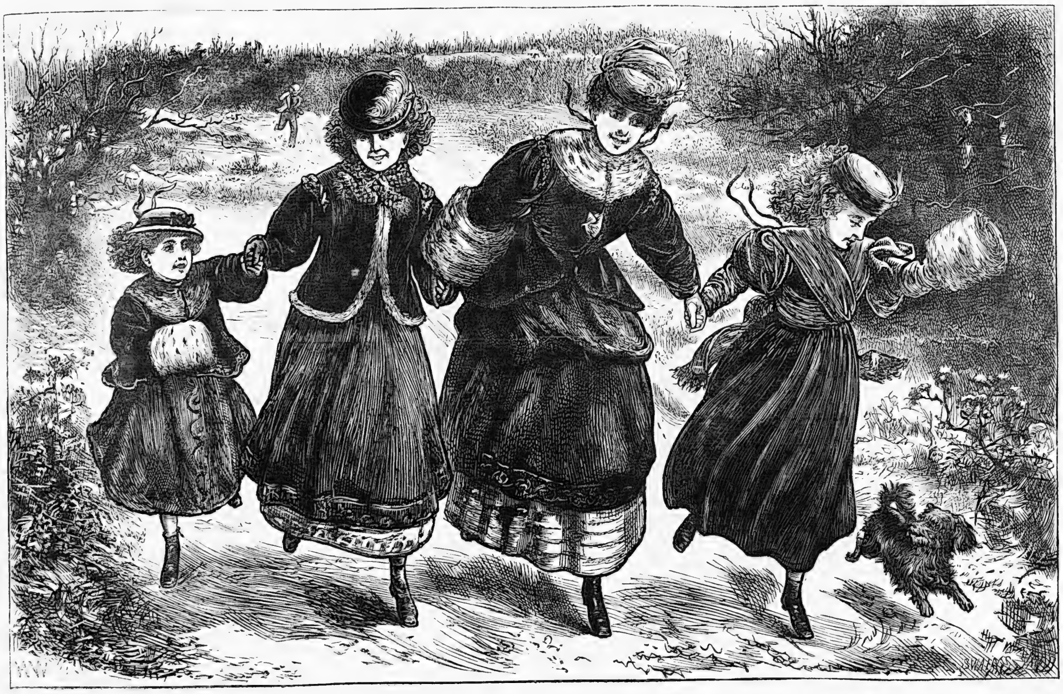
A complimentary performance was given on Tuesday at Covent Garden Theatre to Mr. Charles Mathews, previous to his departure for Australia. Almost every artist of eminence took part in the performance; and Mr. Mathews had a splendid reception.

The funeral of the late Mr. Creswick, R.A., took place on Monday, at Kensal-green Cemetery. Only six gentlemen writing R.A. or A.R.A. to their names, were present. Amongst the literary friends of the deceased artist who attended the funeral were Mr. Mark Lemon and Mr. Edmund Yates.

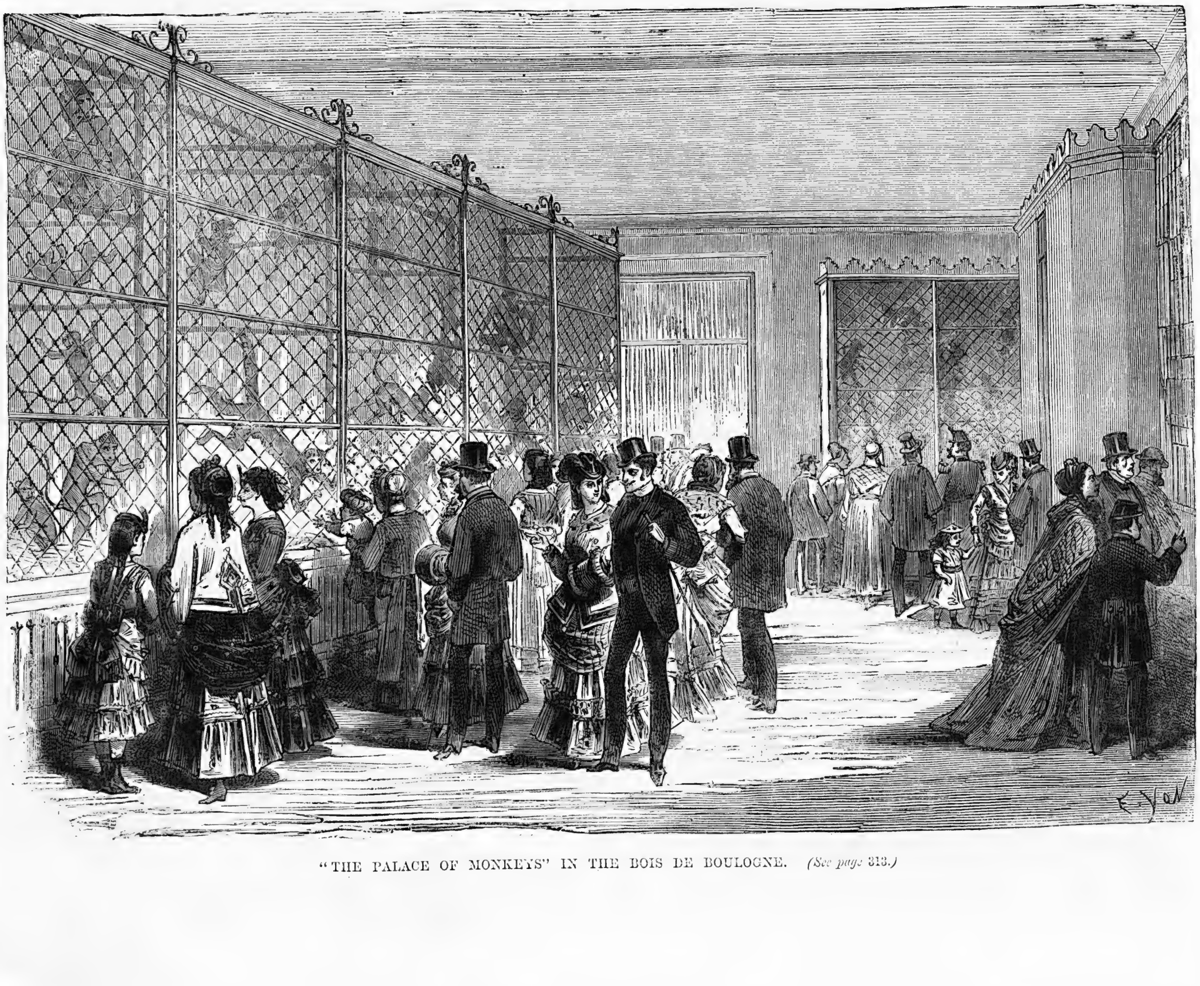
A music-hall singer advertisers himself as "the correct card;" a lady vocalist announces herself as being *premier danseuse characteristique* of the world; two other ladies entitle themselves "the dashing belles;" and a lady and gentleman inform all whom it may concern that they enjoy the proud title of "England's premier duettists."

Fewer Christmas pieces have been produced in London than usual. Drury-lane has "Beauty and the Beast," by Mr. E. L. Blanchard; Covent-Garden, "The Yellow Dwarf," by Mr. Byron; the Haymarket, Mr. Planché's "The Fair One with the Golden Locks" (a revival); the Globe, "Lord Bateman," by Mr. Byron; Sadler's Wells, "Ye Faire Maide of Merrie Islington," by Mr. Cheatham; the Surrey, "St. George and the Dragon;" Astley's, "Jack and the Bean Stalk," by Mr. Harry Lemon, who also supplies the Crystal Palace pantomime, "Dick Whittington," and has had a great success with both pieces.

The Nevada Freehold Properties.—This corporation has issued a most inviting notice for investments. The subject is mentioned in the *Telegraph* and other London papers this week. Subscriptions are invited for the sum of £340,000, in certificates of £2 each, bearing 12½ per cent. interest. The object of the trust is the purchase of the fee simple or freehold of twenty-four large estates, let on leases at rentals sufficient to pay interest on the certificates, and to repay them by yearly drawings, within seventeen years. Certificate holders are also promised a reversionary interest in perpetuity in the whole of the freeholds at the closing of the trust. The rentals are above £52,000 with Royalties increasing yearly raising the income to nearly £70,000. An ample reserve fund, now at the bankers, enables the holders of certificates to receive at once their May dividends. The certificates are £2 each, £1 on application and £1 on issue of certificates, and there is no further liability. Those who have suffered from so-called "limited liability" will regard this latter point as one of immense importance. Elsewhere we publish full particulars of the properties; with Major-General Mason's report—a most interesting and important document.



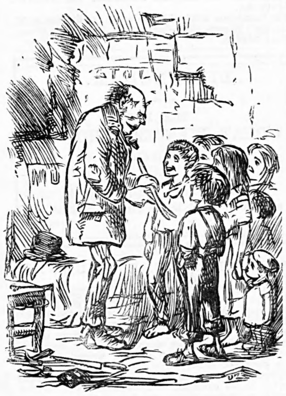
A FROSTY MORNING.—*BY H. WOODS.* *(See page 314.)*

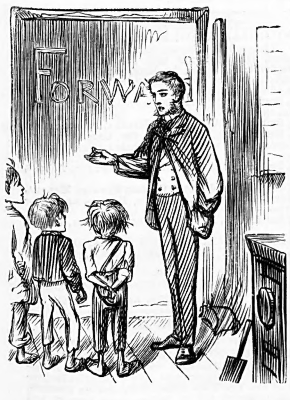


"THE PALACE OF MONKEYS" IN THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE. *(See page 313.)*

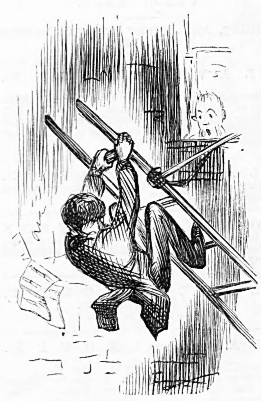
INCIDENTS OF THE WEEK.

It transpired in one of our local police-courts the other day that an old thief was in the habit of training a number of children to his trade. He was indeed a modern "Fagin," less expert than his prototype, but quite as dangerous. On one occasion he had initiated two juvenile aspirants for criminal fame in the use of the "jemmy." The police happily broke up his school. When will the Government itself step in and rescue these little Arabs from sin and misery? Here in this picture of poverty and wretchedness you behold the root of the great twin evil of the day—Pauperism and Crime. We begin our work of reformation (heaven save the mark!) at the wrong end. After all, these children are but matriculating for our modern institution, "The Reformatory," which will only receive them as "thieves." The "Educational League" and the "Educational Union" both propose to do better than this. The Ragged and Industrial Schools in various parts of the country have long ago begun the great work properly, but they are nowhere without State aid. With a firm Government measure of Educational Reform and the co-operation of all existing societies, we may soon hope to replace Fagin with a schoolmaster worthy of the age and the nation. The "bad signs of the times" which crop up in our police-courts after all only bring out the stronger the noble efforts of individuals and voluntary societies. With the motto of Birmingham engraven on the national banners we may soon hope for a change that will satisfy all parties, political and religious. "Forward!"





Zeal is everything; and few people possess that quality in such abundance as "professionals," whether their line is the lyric or the dramatic stage. Take Herr Bandmann, for example: at Melbourne the other day he stabbed a lady in the excess of his earnestness. Or take a case nearer home—as near, in fact, as the good city of Worcester. At a concert given there the other day by certain members of the cathedral choir, the favourite glee "The Watchman" was to be sung. The *basso profundo* of the party, desirous of securing for their performance of the glee all possible *kudos*, stationed himself on a ladder outside an open window, from whence, in strident tones, he proclaimed the hour, whilst his brother vocalists, from their more secure place on the platform, made response in chorus. The effect was almost electrical; romantic young ladies thought it "heavenly," "beautiful;" even their stronger-headed companions allowed that it was "very jolly." The Watchman himself was tolerably well satisfied with the impression made on the audience. But just as the gentleman of the bass voice was carolling the hour, thinking perhaps between whiles "will the time soon pass?" a crash was heard, and several of the audience who ran outside to see what had interrupted the vocalist found the "Watchman" lying prone on the muddy earth, someone having pulled a cord which was attached to the ladder and window, and thus overturned the popular basso, who, we are glad to say, was more frightened than hurt.



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(Signeo) J. M. DRAGO, Treasurer of the National Government.
JOSE TOMAS ROJO.
JUAN M. ALVAREZ.

A true copy.—A. M. Bell.

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NEVADA FREEHOLD PROPERTIES TRUST. Subscription, £340,000. Certificates £2 each, with Coupons attached for interest 12½ per cent. for 17 years, payable to bearer half-yearly. £1 on application, and £1 on issue of certificate. No further liability whatever.

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Major-General Mason, one of the trustees deputed to proceed to Nevada to examine the mines and register the titles to the properties, having brought home a most satisfactory report, together with numerous samples of ores taken by himself, and three bars of silver produced from three tons of ore mined and milled under his personal supervision, all of which are open to inspection at the offices of the trust, the trustees have decided on making the final issue of certificates, applications for which should be at once made to the bankers, or at the office of the trust.

The subscription is for the purpose of completing the purchase of 24 large unencumbered freehold estates in Nevada (U.S.A.), namely, 22 Silver Mining Properties, nearly ten miles in length, all let on leases, and two estates Pine Woodlands, about six miles square.

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No working capital, or machinery, or expenses of any kind for the mines required by the trust, as the lessees employ their own means for developing the properties.

The contract and trust deed, together with forms of certificates, maps, plans, certified copies of records, reports, &c., may be seen at the offices of the trust, where also can be obtained prospectuses and forms of application.

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TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEVADA FREEHOLD PROPERTIES TRUST.

Austin, Nevada, Nov. 22, 1869.

Gentlemen—In pursuance of your instructions, I have made a careful personal examination of the several properties belonging to the trust, and I herewith beg to submit the following report:—

I proceeded to the Twin River Mining District, about 50 miles south of the city of Austin, in the State of Nevada, to examine the mines.

I first visited Ophir Canon, in Twin River Mining District, in which is a large and costly mill, of twenty stamps. Here also are located the Mammoth, the Gould and Curry, the Anna Morgan and Lawrence Consolidated, and the Bullion ledges. The Mammoth ledge is a short distance below the Mill. Its immense croppings are visible for a long distance, and show to great advantage; it is 20 feet in width, and crops out for a considerable distance.

The Gould and Curry can be distinctly traced from the Murphy shaft, the croppings being identical, and presenting as good an outcrop as the celebrated Murphy Mine; and from the great success of the Murphy, the trust cannot fail to find a very valuable mine in the Gould and Curry, which is 15 feet wide.

The Anna Morgan and Lawrence Consolidated is 1,000 feet from the Murphy Mine, and upon the same ledge; the croppings are the same as upon the Murphy, and Gould and Curry, and the character of the quartz identical; this ledge is 10 feet in width.

The Welland and Glasgow Mines are in Wisconsin Canon, north of Ophir, and both ledges are well defined partaking of the general character of the mines of Twin River. The Welland ledge is 5 feet in width—The Glasgow 10 feet.

In Lost Chance Canon, south of Ophir, are—The Northern Light, 20 feet wide; Andy Johnson, 20 feet; Black Hawk, 10 feet; Baker, Belmont, 8 feet; Saratoga, 10 feet; and the Vanderbilt, 50 feet wide. Considerable developments have been made upon these mines, and they show to great advantage; recent blasts have discovered the fine quality and character of the ore. The Andy Johnson, in particular, crops out a great distance, impressing the beholder with admiration for its gigantic proportions and uniform quality of its quartz. Nearly opposite the Andy Johnson is the Vanderbilt Mine. In magnitude it surpasses all that I saw in any of the districts. Its great outcrop rises up fully 50 feet above the surface, and presents a most impressive and imposing appearance. This ledge is 50 feet in width, yet at the point of the location such an immense body of ore appears that I think it could safely be called very much wider. The developments here are similar to those upon the Andy Johnson. The quartz in the shafts was strongly impregnated with mineral. I directed two tons, taken out from the mines under my supervision, to be reduced at the mill. The ore taken out was an average of the ledge (not selected), and its results will form a fair estimate of what may be expected from these mines. These two tons, one each from the Andy Johnson and Vanderbilt, with one ton from the Apollo Mine in the Manhattan district, will be at once reduced by mill process, and the result forwarded to you in bullion.*

The canons are well watered; mountains well wooded, and the trust has, in this locality, several hundred acres of woodland, some of its tracts being the best in the district.

Across Smoky Valley, about thirty miles east, is the Manhattan District, somewhat different in its character, its mountains being less lofty and its canons more gradual. Here I visited the Jupiter, 10ft. wide; Venus, 15ft.; Orion, 7ft.; Pallas, 4ft.; Mars, 8ft.; Apollo, 25ft.; Mount Zion, 9ft.; Asteroids, 50ft. The ledges crop out boldly, are well defined, and have every indication of being permanent and enduring veins. The 2,240 acres belonging to the trust in this district are well timbered and capable of furnishing all wood required for fuel or for milling and mining.

The mines in both Manhattan and Twin River Districts are easy of access, with good mountain roads through the various canons.

From all the mines I took specimens of ore, which I have marked and forwarded to you.

My examination of the properties has fully impressed me with their value, and convinced me that the representations made regarding them are not only in the main true, but that much more might truly have been said of their merits.

A mine of the magnitude of the Vanderbilt, and of its uniform valuable quartz, capable as it is alone of supplying a large mill for an indefinite time, constitutes of itself a valuable mining property; but such mines as the Vanderbilt, Andy Johnson, Gould and Curry, Glasgow and Apollo, together with the remaining properties of the trust, all good, form a combination at once insuring success, and equal to the best mining properties of this State.

My opinions have been formed after a careful examination of the mines of successful companies at Belmont, at Reese River, and of the celebrated Murphy Mine at Twin River. All the Twin River Mines of the trust are similar in character to this latter mine; and, judging from the croppings, there is just reason to believe that their workings will be as successful as have been those of this celebrated mine.

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---

* Three bars of silver bullion, the produce of these ores, together with numerous samples from the different mines, may be seen at the Offices of the Trust, 22, Moorgate-street, E.C.

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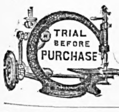

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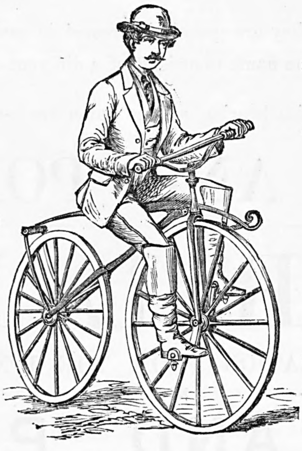

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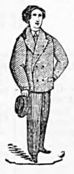

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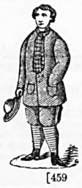

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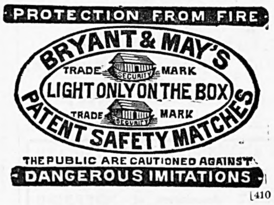

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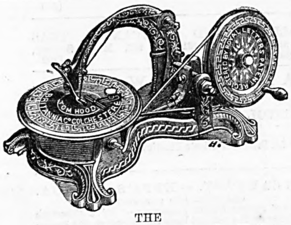
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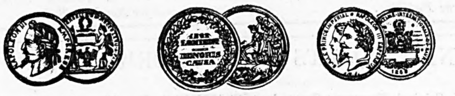
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